

# Decisions of the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee

18 April 2012

Members Present:-

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

Councillor Dean Cohen	Councillor Alison Moore
Councillor Jack Cohen	Councillor Rowan Turner
Councillor Brian Gordon	Councillor Barry Rawlings

Also in attendance  
Councillor Richard Cornelius  
Councillor Tom Davey  
Councillor Arjun Mittra

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Maureen Braun      Councillor Kath McGuirk

## 1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**RESOLVED that** -the minutes of the meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012 and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 be approved.

## 2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Maureen Braun and Councillor Kath McGuirk. An apology for late arrival was received from Councillor Brian Gordon.

## 3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None.

## 4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (IF ANY)

None

## 5. MEMBERS' ITEMS

None.

## 6. ANY MATTERS REFERRED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE RELATING TO KEY DECISIONS MADE BY:

Councillor Brian Salinger provided feedback to the Committee on the Cabinet meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012 where the reference back on Libraries had been considered.

## **7. COUNCILLOR CALLS FOR ACTION**

None.

## **8. PEDESTRIAN SAFETY EAST FINCHLEY UPDATE REPORT**

The Assistant Director, Transport and Highways, provided an update to the Committee on the East Finchley Impact Assessment. The Committee were informed that a systematic study had been undertaken and that the findings had been reported to the Cabinet Member for Environment. The Committee were advised that a meeting would take place with Walk Safe to discuss the initial findings and potential options before any further steps were taken. Following this meeting a Delegated Powers Report would be produced and a copy made available to the Committee.

Councillor Mitra addressed the Committee on the recent traffic management solutions that had taken place in East Finchley. Councillor Mitra raised concerns about the removal of railings and other works close to local schools and urged officers within the Environment, Planning and Regeneration directorate to liaise with officers in education to ensure that a holistic approach was being taken. Councillor Mitra urged the Committee to resolve that these works be halted until the impact assessment of East Finchley had been completed.

The Committee sought further details on the timetable for the removal of the railings and expressed concern that this was occurring across the borough at this time. The Assistant Director, Transport and Highways, advised the Committee that the removal of the railings was part of the Mayor of London's transport strategy which included de-cluttering and the removal of guard rails. The removal of the railings was part of the 2011/12 budget and priority had been given to improving the footways.

### **RESOLVED that**

- 1. the Delegated Powers Report on the East Finchley Impact Assessment be circulated to the Committee for comments as soon as it becomes available.**
- 2. Officers from the Environment Planning and Regeneration directorate undertake an objective assessment of any proposed removal of railings and inform East Finchley Ward Members of any plans to remove any further railings in the East Finchley area.**

## **9. REGENERATION REVIEW**

The Leader of the Council presented the Regeneration Review and advised the Committee of the review findings and the proposed next steps.

The Committee were requested to consider the Regeneration Review and make comments and/or recommendations on the proposals to the Leader.

**RESOLVED that the following comments and recommendations be made to the Leader**

- (1) That the Leader work with the appropriate agencies to encourage more local apprenticeships and employment of local people.**

- (2) That the Leader consider alternative and more flexible funding streams as part of the Action Plan.**
- (3) That the Leader maximises the opportunities to create a mixture of housing to meet local needs.**
- (4) That the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee be kept informed of the progress of the regeneration Review Action Plan and be sent a copy of any update report to Cabinet on delivery of the council's regeneration programme.**

## **10. HOUSING ALLOCATIONS SCHEME- SIX MONTH REVIEW**

The Cabinet Member for Housing provided an overview of the findings of the six month review of the Council's Housing Allocations Scheme.

**RESOLVED-** that the following comments and recommendations be made :

- 1. That the Cabinet Member for Housing be requested to note the concern of the Committee regarding the application of priority rules and the use of discretion in the allocation of accommodation by housing officers, and that officers be required to provide more transparent feedback to housing applicants.**
- 2. That the Cabinet Member for Housing note the Committee's comment that the current housing allocation process should focus on meeting housing need rather than adhering to criteria.**
- 3. That the Committee recognised that Officer time was more effectively being used by dealing with applicants that could be re-housed.**
- 4. That the Committee consider that the success of any new housing allocation system was reliant on the affordability of housing.**

## **11. WEBSITE TRANSFORMATION**

The Assistant Director of Communications and the Overview and Scrutiny Manager gave a presentation on the new Council website and the new committee papers content management system.

**RESOLVED that-**

- (1) the Committee welcomed the Council's new website and committee papers content management system.**
- (2) the presentation slides be circulated to the Committee.**

**12. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12**

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager introduced the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2011/12.

**RESOLVED that-**

- (1) the Scrutiny Office be requested to circulate the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report to the Chairman of Budget and Performance, Safeguarding and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and incorporate any comments prior to submission to Council on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

**13. RECOMMENDATION TRACKING REPORT**

The Committee considered a report detailing progress made in implementing recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups which had been accepted by Cabinet.

**RESOLVED that –**

- (1) the progress made in implementing recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups accepted by Cabinet be noted.**

**14. TASK AND FINISH GROUP APPOINTMENTS**

**RESOLVED that:**

- (1) the following Task and Finish groups be established**

**Effectiveness of Task and Finish Groups**

<b>Conservative Group</b>	<b>Labour Group</b>
Brian Salinger Sury Khatri Reuben Thompstone	Alison Moore Alan Schneiderman <i>Substitute: Claire Farrier</i> <i>Substitute: Barry Rawlings</i>

**Road Safety**

<b>Conservative Group</b>	<b>Labour Group</b>
<i>Vacancy</i> <i>Vacancy</i> <i>Vacancy</i>	Geoff Johnson Geof Cooke <i>Substitute: Arjun Mittra</i> <i>Substitute: Jim Tierney</i>

**Children's Centres**

<b>Conservative Group</b>	<b>Labour Group</b>
Kate Salinger <i>Vacancy</i> <i>Vacancy</i>	Anne Hutton Pauline Coakley Webb <i>Substitute: Ansuya Sodha</i> <i>Substitute: Gill Sargeant</i>

**(2) That the Scrutiny Office contact the Conservative Group Secretary to seek nominations for the vacancies on convened Task and Finish Groups.**

RESOLVED that:

**(1) the following Task and Finish groups be established**

#### **15. CABINET FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the Cabinet Forward Plan for the period April to July 2012 which had been tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED that

**(1) the Cabinet Forward Plan be noted.**

**(2) Officers be requested to bring forward the following reports (prior to consideration by Cabinet and Cabinet Resources Committee in June and July):-**

**(i) Skills and Enterprise Action Plan/ Supporting Young People into Employment**

**(ii) Grahame Park and Brent Cross Regeneration**

**(iii) Highways Asset Management Plan and Highway Maintenance**

#### **16. BUSINESS MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12**

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme 2011/12.

RESOLVED that:

**(1) the report be noted.**

**(2) the following items be added to the Committee's work programme :**

**(i) Skills and Enterprise Action Plan/ Supporting Young People into Employment**

**(ii) Grahame Park and Brent Cross Regeneration**

**(iii) Highways Asset Management Plan and Highway Maintenance**

**17. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

The Vice-Chairman thanked the Chairman for conducting Committee meetings in a fair and diligent way during the 2011/12 municipal year.

The meeting finished at 9.45 pm