

Decisions of the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7 February 2013

Members Present:-

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

Councillor Jack Cohen	Councillor Geoffrey Johnson (In place of Alison Moore)
Councillor Brian Gordon	Councillor John Marshall (In place of Rowan Quigley Turner)
Councillor Barry Rawlings	Councillor Alan Schneiderman (In place of Kath McGuirk)
Councillor Andrew Strongolou	

Also in attendance

Councillor Richard Cornelius
Councillor John Hart
Councillor Sury Khatri - Mill Hill Ward Member

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Maureen Braun	Councillor Alison Moore
Councillor Kath McGuirk	Councillor Rowan Quigley Turner

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2013 be agreed as a correct record.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies for absence had been received from:

- Councillor Maureen Braun;
- Councillor Alison Moore (who was substituted for by Councillor Geoff Johnson);
- Councillor Rowan Quigley Turner (who was substituted for by Councillor John Marshall); and
- Councillor Kath McGuirk (who was substituted for by Councillor Alan Schneiderman).

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None.

5. MEMBERS' ITEMS

None.

6. CALL-INS

None.

7. COUNCILLOR CALLS FOR ACTION

None.

8. SARACENS CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE UPDATE

Neil Richardson, the Highways Manager, provided the Committee with a verbal update on the Saracens Event Day Controlled Parking Zone.

Mr Richardson informed the Committee that the primary features of the Event Day Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) were:

- To ensure effectiveness for the area;
- To ensure that the use of the developed Barnet Copthall Stadium did not adversely impact on residents and traders and other community based activities; and
- That Saracens would meet all reasonable costs to introduce and maintain the measures, including enforcement of any restrictions introduced.

The Highways Manager advised the committee that kick-off times would be varied throughout the season and that there would be no kick-offs before 12.00 noon.

The Committee were informed that there were 7,500 people in the CPZ that were eligible to apply for a permit or visitor's vouchers. Households could apply for up to 88 parking vouchers per annum, with additional vouchers being made available to support congregations and other community activities.

The Highways Manager noted the importance of making sure that the highways were safe for all road users. The Committee were advised that only one test match had taken place so far at the Copthall Stadium on 27 January 2013. Officers reported that "light" enforcement had been undertaken on that day where vehicles in contravention of parking restrictions were given a leaflet advising of the Event Day parking controls and advising drivers of the dates of the remaining matches for the current season. The Highways Manager also advised the Committee that a similar approach would be taken at the next match on 16 February 2013, but that yellow line restrictions would be enforced.

Lisa Wright, the Traffic and Development Manager, informed the committee that Officers will be monitoring each match of the current season to assess the parking impact.

The Highways Manager informed the Committee that they would be carrying out another consultation with every property in the area at the end of the current season, asking for views on the scheme. Comments made would be taken on board to help determine whether any changes to the scheme might be required moving forward.

Referring to the light enforcement, where leaflets were given to cars that would otherwise have received tickets, a Member questioned how many of these leaflets had been issued. He was advised by Officers that the figure was approximately 140 leaflets. Responding to a question, Officers informed the Committee that the vehicles that were leafleted as part of the light enforcement were situated throughout the CPZ. Officers advised the Committee that the attendance for the match was approximately 3,700. The Committee noted that as this was a test game, the maximum attendance would be in the region of 4,000. Attendance was expected to be higher at future matches.

A Member questioned if it was unusual for residents to not have to pay for permits. Officers responded that it was, but that they were being provided at zero cost to residents by Saracens in recognition that there would be some impact on residents on match days. Responding to a question from the Committee, the Highways Manager advised that the resident's permits and parking vouchers arrangement was legally binding.

The Chairman invited Mill Hill Ward Councillors, John Hart and Sury Khatri, to address the Committee.

Councillor John Hart noted that the scheme was still in its early days. He informed the Committee that many people were unhappy with the five hour period of the parking restrictions, and questioned whether this period was necessary. Councillor Hart informed the Committee that he had attended the Mill Hill Resident's Association with Councillor Sury Khatri where approximately 300 people had been in attendance in relation to this matter. Councillor Hart also highlighted that people could misuse the parking vouchers.

Councillor Hart highlighted to the Committee that the attendees of the last match were largely from the home team and suggested that these attendees could be managed more easily than the supporters of the visiting team. He informed the Committee that the Cophall Open Space should be considered as an open space for everyone. Councillor Hart also noted that improvements had been made in the area as a result of the development.

A Member referred to Councillor Hart's contribution to a previous Planning and Environment Committee and asked Councillor Hart to confirm that Saracens had agreed to that the maximum capacity of the stadium would 10,000 people and no more. Councillor Hart confirmed that this was correct.

Councillor Sury Khatri addressed the Committee and highlighted his concern that Ward Members had not had enough involvement in the early discussions with Officers and Saracens. Councillor Khatri questioned whether resident's interests were being adequately considered. Councillor Khatri suggested that all matches should start at 3:00 pm and raised concern over residents being able to have quiet enjoyment of their

everyday lives. Referring to the Human Rights Act, Councillor Khatri questioned the impact of the CPZ and stadium on resident's rights to family life.

A Member questioned Councillor Khatri on the 88 parking vouchers that are available to each household within the area. Councillor Khatri informed the Committee that he did not consider this number to be sufficient.

The Chairman then invited the Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Cornelius, and the Director for Place, Pam Wharfe, to address the Committee. The Director for Place invited Councillor Khatri to meet with her to discuss his concerns further. It was agreed that the meeting would involve all affected Ward Councillors.

Ms Wharfe also noted that the planning application that had been made was for 10,000 attendees only. The Leader of the Council reaffirmed the fact that should Saracens wish to increase capacity to 15,000 in the future, then another planning application would be necessary.

The Highways Manager stated that he believed that Saracens were working to ensure that the scheme had minimal impact on residents. Responding to a question, he informed the committee that 3,192 resident's permits and approximately 118,000 parking vouchers had been issued, and that Saracens would pay the Council the amount for the given number of permits or vouchers issued.

A Member raised concerns that people who were travelling to watch a match might consider that a parking ticket on account of a parking contravention could be factored in as part of the cost of a day out. The Highways Manager informed the Committee that this was a possible risk, but where safety was being compromised, the police could be involved.

Officers advised the committee that they were keen to conduct an audit of resident's views of the success of the scheme, and would allow people plenty of free text to provide their opinions. There will also be the option of both online and hard copies. Ward Councillors requested that they were involved with the drafting of the consultation.

A Member questioned what consultation had taken place at the beginning of the scheme. The Director for Place informed the Committee that the consultation had formed part of a planning application determined by a the Planning and Environment Committee who considered that a CPZ was necessary in order to manage the impact on residents and that Officers have subsequently conducted statutory consultation.

Councillor Khatri suggested that electronic signs should be considered as a way of reducing the five hour time period for parking restrictions. Officers agreed to investigate the cost of variable signage.

RESOLVED that:-

- 1. The Committee note the update on the Saracens Event Day Controlled Parking Zone as set out in the report and as detailed above.**
- 2. Members note the request that adjacent Ward Councillors be involved in the CPZ review at the end of the season.**

3. **The Committee note the invitation from the Director for Place to meet with Mill Hill Ward Members**
4. **Officers are requested to give consideration to the costing installing variable signs for the CPZ zone.**
5. **That the Committee requested to receive update on the review of the Saracens Event Day CPZ scheme which would be conducted at the end of the current season.**

During consideration of the item above, Councillor Alan Schneiderman left the meeting at 8:30 pm.

9. ADVANCED NOTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The committee noted the Advanced Notification of Executive Decisions (published on 25 January 2013) which had been tabled at the meeting.

A Member referred to the item titled 'Disposal of Former Friern Barnet Library' which was scheduled for consideration by the Cabinet Resources Committee on 25 February 2013. The item sought the Committee's approval to commence the marketing of the property for disposal. The Leader of the Council advised the Committee that since the publication of the Notice, the decision had been changed. Instead of a disposal, the Council had entered into a short temporary licence while negotiations were being completed with a view to agreeing a two year licence to enable the Council to assess whether Friern Barnet Library can be run as a community library. The Committee noted that licensing arrangements were likely to be discussed at the meeting of the Cabinet Resources Committee.

Resolved that:-

1. **The Committee note the Advance Notice of Executive Decisions**
2. **The Committee note the update from the Leader of the Council regarding the disposal of Friern Barnet Library.**

10. TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATES

The Committee considered a report by the Scrutiny Office which provided an update on the four currently convened Task and Finish Groups and Overview & Scrutiny Panels.

Education Strategy

The Chairman of the Education Strategy Overview & Scrutiny Panel, Councillor John Marshall, informed the Committee that the Panel had held two meetings so far, with another meeting scheduled for the following week. The Overview and Scrutiny Manager advised the Committee that the Council were currently developing an Education Strategy for Barnet which would provide a strategic response to the new educational landscape and the future role of elected Member Governors and Parent Governors. The Panel were considering how the Council could engage with schools and maintain a high performance across the board. The Overview and Scrutiny Manager advised the Committee that it

was expected that the Education Strategy for Barnet would be reported to Cabinet in April or June and the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel would feed into that overall strategic approach.

Children's Centres

The Chairman advised the Committee that it had been agreed that a Task and Finish Group review on Children's Centres should commence. The committee were informed that Officers were recommending that the start of the group be deferred as the Children's Service had commissioned an external evaluation study which had not yet been completed. Members were requested to agree that the commencement of this Task and Finish Group be deferred until mid-April to enable the Group to utilise the information obtained from this external review.

The Deputy Director for the Children's Service, Jay Mercer, advised the Committee that the Children's Service considered this to be a good opportunity for Members to look at the base facts surrounding Barnet's Children's Centres, and to have an input in shaping the way forward for Children's Centres.

The Chairman questioned Officers whether the study would be looking at the catchment areas of Children's Centres. Mr. Mercer advised that the study did not specifically look at these, but that this was an area that could arise in future discussion. At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Mercer advised that the scrutiny review could consider the issue of catchment area for Children's Centres in Barnet.

A Member questioned if the external study would focus solely on Children's Centres, and questioned whether it would consider wider aspects of early years provision. Officers advised the Committee that this piece of work would just focus on Children's Centres.

A Member questioned whether a Children's Centre attached to a primary school which had been placed under special measures as a result of an OfSTED inspection and was forced to become an academy whether the Children's Centre would still be run by the Council. Officers advised the Committee that the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) that has just been circulated for agreement for 2013/14 made it clear that if a school went into special measures, then the SLA would be terminated and the Council would take the Children's Centre back into direct management.

Secondary School Places:

The Chairman noted a recommendation that had been made by the Committee one year earlier regarding the Secondary School Places Overview & Scrutiny Panel which was:

"The Supply of Secondary School Places Overview and Scrutiny Panel be recommended to reconvene one year after reporting to Cabinet to review progress made in implementing recommendations"

The Chairman advised that the Committee were due to receive a recommendation tracking report on the Secondary School Places Overview & Scrutiny Panel at the meeting scheduled for 2 May 2013. Upon discussion, the Committee decided that after the update has been reported to the Committee in May, that Members could then decide whether to reconvene the Panel for a single meeting.

A Member questioned if a One Barnet Overview & Scrutiny Panel was going to be convened. The Leader of the Council informed the committee that there was a proposal to establish a Contract Monitoring Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee. The Overview and Scrutiny Manager advised that Terms of Reference were currently being drafted for this Sub-Committee for consideration by the Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee.

RESOLVED that:-

- 1. The Committee note the updates as set out in the report and above.**
- 2. The Committee agree to defer the start of the Children's Centres Task and Finish Group until mid- April 2013.**
- 3. The Committee note the forthcoming update on the Secondary School Places Overview & Scrutiny Panel (2 May 2013) and be requested to consider, upon receipt of this report, whether the Panel should be reconvened.**

11. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS - RECOMMENDATION TRACKING

The Assistant Director for Adult Social Care, David Jones, presented a report that provided the Committee with an update on the implementation of recommendations made by the Health and Social Care Integration Task and Finish Group.

The Assistant Director referred to the recommendations below:

Recommendation One:

- Cabinet and the Health & Well Being Board are requested to endorse the vision proposed by the Task and Finish Group for the integration of health and social care in Barnet, as set out in section 1. *(of the final report)*

Recommendation Two:

- Cabinet and the Health & Well Being Board consider and agree the principles proposed by the Task and Finish Group for the integration of health and social care, as set out in section 2. *(of the final report)*

Recommendation Three:

- Cabinet and the Health & Well Being Board consider and agree the recommendations on the approach to Health and Social Care Integration proposed by the Task and Finish Group as set out in section 3. *(of the final report)*

The Assistant Director for Adult Social Care advised the Committee that recommendations above had all been accepted by Cabinet and the Integration Board, and that they were being incorporated by the Health and Wellbeing Board into the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Recommendation Four:

- The Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider and agree the proposal that the Task and Finish Group is given a longer term role in providing oversight to Health and Social Care Integration projects, as described in the Introduction. *(of the final report)*

The Assistant Director advised that when this item had been reported to Cabinet, Cabinet Members and Officers had agreed that this could be expedited by forming a Reference Group comprising of elected Members, the NHS, and the voluntary and private sector.

Responding to a question from a Member, Mr. Jones informed the Committee that he expected that the membership of such a Reference Group would not be restricted to non-executive representation, but would include both commissioners and providers.

The Assistant Director advised the Committee that the outcome of the health and social care integration pilot projects would be brought to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Barry Rawlings, who had participated in the Task and Finish Group, sought assurance that Members would be involved in the Reference Group and questioned when it would be established. The Assistant Director advised the Committee that the Group should be set up when the health and social care integration programme had been fully established. He undertook to report back to the Committee with timescales as soon as possible.

RESOLVED that:-

- 1. That the Committee note the progress made in implementing the Task and Finish Group Recommendations as set out in the report and above.**
- 2. That the Committee note that the Assistant Director will report on the timescales around convening a Reference Group at the earliest opportunity.**

12. BUSINESS MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED that the Committee note the Forward Work Programme.

13. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

None.

The meeting finished at 8:56 pm