

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES

8 JUNE 2010

Chairman:	* Councillor Jerry Miles	
Councillors:	* Sue Anderson * Kam Chana * Barry Macleod-Cullinane * Paul Osborn	* Varsha Parmar (2) * Bill Phillips * Sasi Suresh (4) * Stephen Wright
Voting Co-opted:	(Voluntary Aided) * Mrs J Rammelt Reverend P Reece	(Parent Governors) * Mrs D Speel
In attendance: (Councillors)	James Bond	

* Denotes Member present
(2) and (4) Denote category of Reserve Members

6. Attendance by Reserve Members

RESOLVED: To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Members:-

Ordinary Member

Councillor Ann Gate
Councillor Sachin Shah

Reserve Member

Councillor Varsha Parmar
Councillor Sasi Suresh

7. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: To note that the following interests were declared

Agenda Item 8 – Developing the Scrutiny Work Programme

Councillor Paul Osborn declared a personal interest in that he had been a Cabinet Member and the Portfolio Holder for Performance, Communication and Corporate Services under the previous administration. He would remain in the room during discussion and decision making on this item but would leave should his personal interest become prejudicial.

Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane declared a personal interest in that he had been a Cabinet Member and the Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing under the previous administration. He would remain in the room during discussion and decision making on this item but would leave should his personal interest become prejudicial.

8. Minutes

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2010 be taken as read and signed as a correct record;
- (2) the minutes of the special meeting held on 27 May 2010 be taken as read and signed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:
 - An extra line be added to the end of minute item 4, to read: “A Member of the Conservative Group stated that he objected to the proposed new committee structure”.

9. Public Questions, Petitions and Deputations

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were put, or petitions or deputations received at this meeting.

10. References from Council/Cabinet

RESOLVED: To note that there were no references.

RESOLVED ITEMS

11. Developing the Scrutiny Work Programme

The Committee received a report which set out a number of projects which the previous Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recommended for inclusion in the 2010/11 work programme. An officer stated that the Scrutiny Team would be consulting with Members over the next month with the intention of bringing a more comprehensive work programme to the

Committee on 27 July 2010. The purpose of the current report was to allow Members to start considering the kind of projects which might be included in the work programme.

The Chairman proposed that two challenge panels be constituted in July 2010 in order to consider Harrow Council's Single Equalities Scheme and the introduction of SmartWater across the borough. In addition, he stated that it would be useful for the Committee to revisit the Neighbourhood Champion Scheme in the future as the original challenge panel had not agreed the final report. In light of this he proposed that, insofar as was possible, the panel be reconstituted with the new Safer and Stronger Community Leads added to the membership. A Member stated that he agreed with the proposal relating to Harrow Council's Single Equality Scheme, but that he would like to ensure that representatives from the trade unions and Community and Council groups were also involved.

During further discussion on the work programme, Members made the following suggestions:

- any scrutiny work relating to increasing the involvement of residents in sport should also aim to consider residents' involvement in art;
- future work relating to recession monitoring should aim to consider both the town centre and district centres;
- the Committee should consider the progress of the Better Deal for Residents Programme, including proposals to relocate the civic centre;
- the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee would need to consider recent changes to the Local Government inspection regime;
- in light of the recent changes in Central Government, the Committee should ensure that there was adequate flexibility in the work programme to account for unexpected issues arising as a result of new policies or strategies;
- the Committee would need to carefully monitor proposed efficiency savings and the impact any changes would have on key services;
- due to the budgetary concerns NHS Harrow was currently facing, the Committee should carefully monitor the provision of continued care services in the borough and the impact of any changes;
- the Committee or Lead Members should consider the lessons that had been learnt following the Planning Committee's decision to grant planning permission for the Richards Close 'extra care' scheme. Members stated that this might have already been considered by the Planning Committee or the Governance, Audit and Risk Management Committee;

- the Committee should continue to monitor the performance of Kier contract.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the comments and suggestions of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the proposed Scrutiny Work Programme be noted;
- (2) a challenge panel to consider Harrow Council's Single Equality Scheme be arranged to take place in July 2010, taking into account the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (3) a challenge panel to consider the introduction of SmartWater across Harrow be arranged to take place in July 2010;
- (4) insofar as possible, the Neighbourhood Champions Scrutiny Challenge Panel be reconstituted with the new Safer and Stronger Community Leads added to the membership;
- (5) an updated report outlining the scope, methodological approach and priority of proposed scrutiny projects be provided at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 27 July 2010.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 7.54 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR JERRY MILES
Chairman