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MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 30 April 2013 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Alan Hall (Chair), Olufunke Abidoye, Obajimi Adefiranye, Abdeslam Amrani, Pauline Beck, Paul Bell, Suzannah Clarke, Liam Curran, Julia Fletcher, Patsy Foreman, Vicky Foxcroft, Sven Griesenbeck, Carl Handley, Ami Ibitson, Mark Ingleby, Stella Jeffrey, Darren Johnson, Chris Maines, Pauline Morrison, Sam Owolabi-Oluyole, Jacq Paschoud, Philip Peake, Eva Stamirowski and Alan Till

ALSO PRESENT: Timothy Andrew, Salena Mulhere, Barrie Neal and Petra Der Man

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Britton, Councillor Vincent Davis, Councillor Jim Mallory, Councillor John Muldoon, Councillor Marion Nisbet and Councillor John Paschoud

1. Minutes of the Meetings Held on 11 February 2013 and 20 March 2013

RESOLVED: Subject to the addition of Cllr Ingleby as in attendance and the deletion of section 4 in the minute of the meeting on 11 February 2013, the minutes of both meetings were agreed as a true record.

2. Declarations of Interest

3. OSC Select Committee Appointments

RESOLVED: The Committee reviewed the membership of the Safer And Stronger Communities Select Committee and approved the appointment of Councillor Olufunke Abidoye to the Committee in place of Councillor Vicky Foxcroft

4. Emergency Services Review - Update

4.1 The Chair advised the Committee that the public consultation on the Draft Fifth London Safety Plan 2013-2016 closed on the 17th of June. The Committee discussed the consultation timetable and the proposals for Lewisham. The Committee noted the consultation meeting in Lewisham takes place on Wednesday 22 May at 7pm at Sydenham School.

4.2 The Committee agreed its full support for the retention of the fire stations at Downham and New Cross.

4.3 The Committee noted concern regarding the proposal to remove a fire engine from Peckham fire station, given the potential impact of this proposal on the residents of Lewisham.

4.4 The Committee resolved that the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee respond to the consultation on behalf of the Committee to reflect the views and concerns of the Committee.

4.5 The Committee resolved to call upon the Mayor to also respond to the consultation and express support for the retention of the fire stations at Downham and New

Cross and to also express concern regarding the proposals in Southwark, given their potential impact on the people of Lewisham.

4.6 Salena Mulhere introduced the report. The key points to note were:

- All Select Committees had been advised of the decision of the Overview and Scrutiny committee on 11 February 2013 to undertake the review
- Sustainable Development would be considering a scoping report the next evening, all other select committees bar CYP had received a scoping report.
- Upon consideration of a scoping report, PAC decided not to take any evidence as part of the review at this time as it felt it would be duplication, however PAC resolved to take up any concerns, in relation to finances, raised by the other select committees in the future if any are raised.
- The other three select committees had received scoping reports and plan to take evidence as part of the review
- It is suggested that as all select committees currently plan to have taken all evidence and agreed recommendations by September, a report of the review and the recommendations of all the select committees be prepared for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the Autumn.

4.7 The Committee discussed the decisions of the CYP and the Public Accounts Select Committees, and the Chair proposed:

- that the Committee agree to receive a draft report and all select committee recommendations in the Autumn
- that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair any decision relating to dealing with any financial concerns raised by the select committees,
- that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree that Business Panel receive a scoping report of the CYP elements of the review to consider,
- that on receipt of the scoping report, Business Panel then decide how that element of the review could be carried out,
- that the scoping report include:
 - (a) Engagement with young people in schools via the schools police officer and Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) engagement with primary schools
 - (b) Engagement work with young people in relation to fire prevention, fire safety and, if appropriate, in relation to hoax calling
 - (c) Support to schools emergency planning in relation to fire evacuation
 - (d) Any implications for children's social services including changes to youth offending services
 - (e) Potential healthcare service implications for children related to the proposed changes to A&E services and related acute paediatric services

4.8 This proposal was agreed by the Committee.

4.9 Councillor Curran welcomed the scope coming to sustainable development the next day, and asked for confirmation that it would cover transport. Salena Mulhere confirmed that the scope for Sustainable development would cover transport concerns, Healthier Communities would lead on "blue light" travel for ambulances in relation to health outcomes.

4.10 Councillor Morrisson confirmed that Safer Stronger select committee would be taking evidence on the fire proposals at its next meeting.

- 4.11 The Committee discussed the importance of members being clear on the new structures that exist in the local policing model across the borough, and the responsible sergeants for ward based teams. The Committee agreed that this information for members needed to be requested from Lewisham Metropolitan Police Service.
- 4.12 The Committee discussed the impact of the Police and Crime Plan 2013-2015 on public engagement, and specifically the impact this would have on engagement in Lewisham through the Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group (LCPCG). Councillor Johnson confirmed that it was a Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime (MOPAC) decision to change the CPCG model to a "Safer Neighbourhood Board" in every borough by 2014, with the functions of the Boards set out by MOPAC.
- 4.13 The Committee discussed the format of the new Board and agreed a desire to ensure that community led engagement was at the heart of any replacement to the LCPCG in Lewisham.
- 4.14 The Committee discussed the recent update, received by Healthier Communities Select Committee, on the integration planning being undertaken by Lewisham Healthcare Trust in respect of the Secretary of State decision to integrate the Queen Elizabeth Hospital into the trust.
- 4.15 Councillor Maines advised the Committee that Healthier Communities were advised that no changes would be made in advance of any legal decision, and that work was underway on due diligence and practical handovers such as staffing so that effective services could continue if the merger were to go ahead. Councillor Jeffrey seconded the information provided and advised that members were assured that early planning needed to go ahead so organisations were ready to respond to any changes enforced by the decisions made.
- 4.16 The Chair noted his concern that quite large organisational changes that may impact on services provided were being discussed and planned without full engagement with local councils and local people.
- 4.17 RESOLVED: The Committee agreed its full support for the retention of the fire stations at Downham and New Cross.
- 4.18 RESOLVED: The Committee noted concern regarding the proposal to remove a fire engine from Peckham fire station, given the potential impact of this proposal on the residents of Lewisham.
- 4.19 RESOLVED: That the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee respond to the consultation on behalf of the Committee to reflect the views and concerns of the Committee.
- 4.20 RESOLVED: To call upon the Mayor to also respond to the consultation and express support for the retention of the fire stations at Downham and New Cross and to also express concern regarding the proposals in Southwark, given their potential impact on the people of Lewisham.
- 4.21 RESOLVED:
- that the Committee agree to receive a draft report and all select committee recommendations in the Autumn
 - that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair any decision relating to dealing with any financial concerns raised by the select committees,

- that Business Panel receive a scoping report of the CYP elements of the review to consider,
- that on receipt of the scoping report, Business Panel then decide how that element of the review could be carried out,
- that the scoping report include:
 - (f) Engagement with young people in schools via the schools police officer and Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) engagement with primary schools
 - (g) Engagement work with young people in relation to fire prevention, fire safety and, if appropriate, in relation to hoax calling
 - (h) Support to schools emergency planning in relation to fire evacuation
 - (i) Any implications for children's social services including changes to youth offending services
 - (j) Potential healthcare service implications for children related to the proposed changes to A&E services and related acute paediatric services

4.22 RESOLVED: That an “organogram” from Lewisham Metropolitan Police service outlining the new staffing structure across the borough be requested

5. Items to be referred to Mayor and Cabinet

The Committee resolved to refer the following points to Mayor and Cabinet:

- The Committee agreed its full support for the retention of the fire stations at Downham and New Cross.
- The Committee noted concern regarding the proposal to remove a fire engine from Peckham fire station, given the potential impact of this proposal on the residents of Lewisham.
- The Committee resolved that the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee respond to the consultation on behalf of the Committee to reflect the views and concerns of the Committee.
- The Committee resolved to call upon the Mayor to also respond to the consultation and express support for the retention of the fire stations at Downham and New Cross and to also express concern regarding the proposals in Southwark, given their potential impact on the people of Lewisham.

The meeting ended at 7.40pm