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MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 7 February 2012 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Liam Curran (Chair), Suzannah Clarke (Vice-Chair), Kevin Bonavia, Vincent Davis, Chris Maines and Sam Owolabi-Oluyole

APOLOGIES: Councillors Obajimi Adefiranye, John Bowen, Julia Fletcher and Eva Stamirowski

ALSO PRESENT: Andrew Hagger (Scrutiny Manager), Trish Costello, John Miller (Head of Planning) and Ralph Wilkinson (Head of Public Services)

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2011

The Committee agreed that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2011 be agreed

2. Declarations of interest

2.1 No interests were declared

3. Response from Mayor and Cabinet - Parking

3.1 The Head of Public Services introduced the response, highlighting a number of key points within it. There has been a council wide review of fees and charges as part of the budget which has included parking charges with the indication being that parking charges will not be increased. Lewisham is off-target for income from parking, though some areas (such as penalties) have increased. This presents difficulties as changes to these levels means changes to income. In addition there is a need for the parking policy to be reviewed, with a commitment to do this by March 2013. The review will be complex and wide-ranging, taking into account the issues raised by the Committee such as free permits, shorter permits, 2 hour CPZs and virtual permits.

3.2 The Committee then discussed a number of issues raised:

- Fines income and penalty receipts, which have overachieved by £430k and could be linked to drop in pay and display income.
- The impact on CPZs of the Olympics. There will be a 30 minute walk zone in Lewisham and extended hours for CPZs in Blackheath. This is an emerging situation with LOCOG getting TfL to organise. Residents will have to purchase extra permits during this time though there are discussions over how to manage this without incurring additional costs. An option could be to use congestion charge technology to enforce, so residents effectively free virtual permit. There has been no outcome as yet over whether penalties in the area will go up during the Olympics.

- The impact that using online and mobile payments could have on those that are financially excluded and may not have access to technology in order to adequately use these services.
- Whether instalment payments for parking permits could be added to a person's council tax bill. This would be difficult as the council tax system is not set up for it and there different collection routes and methods.
- The review of policy and the new parking contract, with the review finished in March 2013 and the new contract in July 2013. The contract will be about the implementation of much of what is in the policy.
- Clarification on the role of prudential borrowing, which is necessary for implementing highways type activity.

The Committee agreed that:

The Committee should accept the response

The parking review be added to the list of items for potential scrutiny in the 2012/13 work programme

4. Regeneration Strategy - Delivery Strategy 2011-14

- 4.1 The Head of Planning introduced the item, explaining that a regeneration strategy is not a legally required document but that officers felt it provided a valuable overview of regeneration within the borough. The document does not set policy, but collects policy from around the organisation, putting all the relevant parts together. It summarises how Lewisham has done against implementation, with a good percentage of actions that are green or amber indicating they have been done or will be done. The implementation plan for the strategy is also shorter this time.
- 4.2 The Committee then asked about key milestones within the plan, which depends on where the focus of concern is. For example health and education related projects and targets will be more significant if that is your area of interest. The Committee also remarked on the impact of the East London Line and the potential impact of an extension to the Bakerloo line.

5. Financial Exclusion Review - draft report

- 5.1 The Committee discussed the review, exploring the key findings. The Committee decided to meet informally on Tuesday 21st February to discuss in-depth the key findings and recommendations.

6. Select Committee Work Programme

The Committee agreed that:

The work programme should be approved

7. Items to be referred to Mayor and Cabinet

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

Chair:

Date:
