

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BUSINESS PANEL

Tuesday, 11 February 2020 at 7.05 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Bill Brown, Patrick Codd, Liam Curran, Joan Millbank, John Muldoon and Luke Sorba

ALSO PRESENT: Catherine Bunten, Charlotte Dale, Councillor Chris Barnham and Risthardh Hare

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter Bernards, Councillor Juliet Campbell and Councillor Jim Mallory

277. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of meeting held on 11 February 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

278. Declaration of Interests

None received.

279. Outstanding Scrutiny Matters

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

280. Notification of Late and Urgent Items

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

281. Open Item(s) - Decision by Mayor and Cabinet on 5 February 2020

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

282. Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee Work Programmes - 2019-2020

The Scrutiny Manager gave an oral report to the Panel on matters relating to the Overview and Select Committees work for 2019-2020.

The Panel noted that those Select Committees currently undertaking in-depth reviews were either finishing the analysis of the evidence they had collated, or had concluded and made recommendations to Mayor and Cabinet. It was recognised that the final cycle of Select Committee meetings in this municipal year would take place in March 2020.

In light of the updates, the Scrutiny Manager asked the Panel to note the following:

- **Housing Select Committee.** Residents' engagement review had concluded and the final report and recommendations were submitted to Mayor and Cabinet. A copy of the report was also sent to all scrutiny members.
- **Sustainable Development Select Committee.** Review into parks' management would conclude in March 2020 when the final report with recommendations would be considered. Recommendations would likely focus on the upcoming insourcing of the service.
- **Children and Young People Select Committee.** Review into children living in temporary out-of-borough accommodation would conclude in March 2020, and recommendations would be considered for implementation.
- **Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee:** Equalities review had involved the collation of a significant amount of evidence, most recently via a trip to Glasgow City Council. Further work would be required to allow the evidence to be analysed thoroughly. Therefore, the final report with recommendations would be submitted for consideration at the first meeting in the next municipal year.
- **Public Accounts Select Committee.** A number of recommendations relating to the ongoing review into corporate culture change and commercialisation had been made, but work would continue into the municipal year.
- **Healthier Communities Select Committee:** A review into charging migrants for treatment at Lewisham Hospital was ongoing, and a response from the Mayor and Cabinet was pending. Councillor John Muldoon, the Chair of the Committee added that a request had also been made for Members to receive briefing on contraception shortages in the borough.

On behalf of the Panel, the Chair, Councillor Bill Brown, thanked Members and officers for progress in relation to work undertaken by the various select committees.

283. Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

284. Decisions made by Mayor and Cabinet on 5 February 2020

The Chair of the Panel, Councillor Bill Brown, announced that he had received a request for Members to consider a decision taken by the Mayor and Cabinet on 12 February 2020 in relation to:

- "Permission to extend contract for youth services and to negotiate with Youth Frist for the delivery of youth services in Lewisham:

The Panel moved to determine the report in a 'closed session' by virtue of Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as the issue involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act, as amended by the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (Amendments) (England) Regulations 2006.

Members noted answers to questions raised, and welcomed information that all options were being considered as part of the contract review arrangements, including in-house delivery of youth services.

Members also acknowledged that budget constraints would likely present a challenge when determining the various options. Notwithstanding that, Members sought and received an assurance from Officers that the contract review exercise would progress without adverse detriment in service delivery to young people in Lewisham. It was also the view of Members that steps should ensure that the preferred option(s) take into account workers' rights, including the payment of 'living wage' to existing and potential staff.