

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2011**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Achilleas Georgiou (Deputy Leader) (Chairman), Bambos Charalambous (Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure), Christine Hamilton (Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and Public Health) and Doug Taylor (Leader of the Council)

OFFICERS: Simon Tendeter (Assistant Director, Communities, Communications, Policy and Performance), Rob Flynn (Corporate Policy and Research Manager, Communities, Communications, Policy and Performance), Jane Creer (Democratic Services Officer – Governance)

**1
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Taylor.

**2
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3
URGENT ITEMS**

NOTED that the report listed on the agenda had been circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Amendment Regulations 2002. These requirements state that agendas and reports should be circulated at least 5 clear days in advance of meetings.

**4
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

RECEIVED the Draft terms of reference for the Policy Cabinet Sub-Committee.

NOTED

1. Draft terms of reference had been circulated with the agenda paper.

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2. The sub-committee would provide a corporate stance on policy developments which affected the Council, regionally and nationally, and would respond to initiatives, papers and consultations to put the co-ordinated Council position.
3. If there was a need to respond to a consultation quickly, the sub-committee would convene at short notice if necessary.

AGREED the terms of reference as set out on page 3 of the agenda.

5 RESPONSE TO OPEN PUBLIC SERVICES WHITE PAPER

RECEIVED a verbal update on the Open Public Services White Paper from Simon Tendeter and Rob Flynn.

NOTED

1. Draft text for a response to the Open Public Services White Paper had been circulated to Members via email and hard copy by Rob Flynn (Appendix 1).
2. The more policy related consultation questions had been identified in Appendix 1 and Members were invited to put forward comments and suggestions.
3. Councillor Taylor arrived at the meeting during consideration of the item.
4. Members requested that introductory text be added to highlight co-ordinating themes which were applicable throughout, and a copy of a pamphlet due to be published next week also be sent.
5. Members asked for more detail about the reference to 'unelected office-holders' and who this covered.
6. In respect of 'neighbourhood councils', Members wished Enfield's model to be emphasised, particularly the residents' priority fund, area forums and CAPEs whereby there was increased community engagement within the current democratic framework.
7. In respect of new enterprises, Members drew attention to the last budget agreement and that the Council would set up a trading company, and to the success of Enfield Norse.
8. All Members' comments were noted by the officers who would re-draft text appropriately before it was finalised in agreement with the Chairman and then submitted to the Government Cabinet Office by the end of September.

6

LOCALISM BILL

RECEIVED a verbal update from Simon Tendeter and Rob Flynn on this wide-ranging Bill, focusing on how it fitted into the Government's vision for localism; and its direction and coherence.

NOTED

1. The main areas that affected Enfield had been suggested for discussion and had been circulated to Members via email and hard copy by Rob Flynn (Appendix 2).
2. A presentation table of the decentralisation from 'big government' to 'big society' as envisaged by the Government was circulated.
3. The Bill included significant new policies for local councils which Enfield Council would need to take a line on (highlighted as Themes 1 to 5 in Appendix 2), which Members were invited to discuss and to put forward their comments.
4. There had been specific consultation on the Community Right to Buy and Community Right to Challenge aspects of the Bill earlier this year. Rob Flynn would circulate the summary of responses which had now been made available ahead of further guidance and regulations expected in December.
5. The Bill was expected to become law in April or October 2012, depending on the Government's legislation programme.
6. Legal Services would be looking at implications and processes to ensure the Council was ready to respond with a sound knowledge base by the time the Bill became law.
7. Councillor Taylor left the meeting to attend another appointment.
8. The Neighbourhood Planning aspects of the Bill were being scrutinised by Regeneration and Planning officers. Members agreed it would be useful for a seminar to be provided to which all councillors would be invited.
9. Simon Tendeter agreed to provide further details of the Neighbourhood Planning Frontrunners scheme and funding in relation to the Shires Estate.
10. There were still many unknowns with regard to the legislation, and the Chairman suggested it would be appropriate to schedule a presentation to Strategic Leadership Forum by appropriate officers from various departments in six to nine months' time.

11. Once the guidance / regulations were received (expected in December), a general briefing should be scheduled to the political group meetings early in the New Year.

7

FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

NOTED

1. Items identified for possible future discussion were set out in the Briefing for Members circulated via email and hard copy by Rob Flynn on 9 September, and Members were invited to suggest any other topics.
2. The sub-committee considered the following items for discussion at future meetings:
 - Housing Issues (Proposed by Councillor Taylor)
 - Crime – Ministry of Justice reforms (Proposed by Councillors Hamilton and Georgiou)
 - Crime – riots issues (Proposed by Councillors Hamilton and Georgiou)
 - Dilnot Commission – Report into Social Care (Advised there was nothing to respond to as yet)
 - Graham Allen Report – Early Intervention for Children and Families
 - Every Adult Matters Paper (Proposed by Councillor Charalambous)
3. The sub-committee requested an overview of the legislative changes facing the Council and the impact of these changes for its next meeting.
4. The sub-committee agreed that with three month periods between each meeting, other work programme items would need to be determined nearer to the time so that items could be considered when they were most relevant.
5. The Chairman also asked that the sub-committee be provided with an overview of other responses to Government papers from the Council; and that looking ahead all significant issues and planned consultations be identified to the sub-committee.

8

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

AGREED the date of the next meeting as Thursday 1 December at 6.45pm in Room 3.