

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2 JUNE 2021**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Susan Erbil (Chair), Mahmut Aksanoglu, Lee David-Sanders, Birsen Demirel, Elif Erbil, James Hockney, Hass Yusuf and Derek Levy

ABSENT Margaret Greer

STATUTORY CO-OPTES: *1 vacancy (Church of England diocese representative), vacancy (other faiths/denominations representative), Mr Tony Murphy (Catholic diocese representative), Alicia Meniru & 1 vacancy (Parent Governor representative) - Italics Denotes absence*

OFFICERS: Claire Johnson (Head of Governance, Scrutiny & Registration Services), and Susan O'Connell (Governance & Scrutiny Officer)

Also Attending: Councillor Nesil Caliskan (Leader of the Council)

**1
WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

The Chair, Councillor Susan Erbil welcomed all attendees to the meeting, which was being broadcast live online.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Margaret Greer (Substitute Cllr Hass Yusuf) and for lateness from Cllrs Mahmut Aksanoglu and Elif Erbil

**2
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

AGREED the minutes of the meetings 25 March, 1 April and 8 April 2021. Subject to a duplication being removed from the minutes of 1 April and an amendment to note that Cllr Yusuf was also in attendance at this meeting.

**4
CABINET PRIORITIES FOR 2021/22**

The Chair invited the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nesil Caliskan to out-line the

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Cabinet Priorities for the coming year.

Cllr Caliskan reminded members that the administration's priorities are set out and detailed in the Corporate Plan. Members can regularly request particular updates if required in the forthcoming year.

Cllr Calliskan highlighted the following:

- The climate has changed dramatically over the last 12 months due to Covid, this had had implications for a number of key areas.
- Progress has been made on a number of key areas in the Corporate Strategy.
- Covid- this remains the number one priority to continue to respond to the challenges of the pandemic. The number one objective is to keep residents safe and healthy, in partnership with stakeholders. The Covid testing sites will be maintained, encouraging uptake. The sites will also be regularly reviewed. The Council will continue to support NHS partners and the third sector in the rollout of the vaccination programme across the borough. Enfield are ahead in terms of vaccinations compared to other boroughs and other parts of the country. However, the majority of residents still need a second vaccine. There are particular challenges with vaccine uptake in Care Homes and in particular BAME communities.
- The second area of focus is economic recovery, not just in response to Covid but also recognising that some of the town centres for example needed support pre Covid. The internal recently established Skills & Employment Board allows the Council to deliver a strategic approach to skills and employment. This sits alongside the Corporate Plan, Economic Development Strategy and the Culture Strategy and a Skills Agenda is underway. There is a focus on delivering the recommendations in the Poverty and Inequality Commission. In the next couple of weeks an update will be published on this. There is a plan to tackle food poverty. The council tax support and debt prevention team has expanded to ensure an office structure and cohort in anticipation of growing demand.
- The third area of priority is housing delivery and growth, including agreeing the draft Local Plan and going out to consultation. The prime aim is the ability to control growth in the borough, to deliver affordable housing across the borough, and to continue progress on Meridian Water, specifically on the Joyce and Snells scheme in Edmonton. The Secretary of State has now agreed the private sector licensing scheme, and officers and Cabinet Member are working to deliver on this. Recently a Homelessness Service model was agreed and will be working to deliver that this year.
- The next area is Environment and Climate Change, work will continue on the Climate Change Strategy deliverables. There will be a renewed focus on street cleansing and estates.
- Adult Social Care, an area of particular focus is trying to deliver specialised accommodation for older people, to ensure that the older population have a decent place to live that is affordable and sustainable.

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- The final thing to highlight is in terms of education, for a long period there have been pressures on special educational needs provision in the borough. Progress has been made on this, but more is needed. There are plans for Salmons Brook, Durants, Oaktree, West Lea and Russet House to increase the provision in the borough. This issue is both a huge cost and is also not right that the most vulnerable children are transported to provision outside of the borough.

The Chair noted that many areas raised by the leader are in relation to the scrutiny panels in place and these will be picked up by the panels. It was confirmed that the minutes of this meeting will be circulated to all of the panel chairs.

Committee Members provided the following comments and questions:

- Are there any areas of pre decision scrutiny that would be beneficial to the Cabinet to be brought to scrutiny over the course of the year? The leader confirmed that she believes there is value to pre decision scrutiny when putting reports together so that the reports are collaborative and to help address any early concerns from members. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and the Executive Director will be a better position to advise regarding particular reports. Cllr Caliskan commented on strategic pressures over the next 12 months. The Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) chaired by the leader has a place making strategic oversight view with partners focussing on health in the borough. There are number of recommendations, reports and briefings that come to the HWB, perhaps scrutiny could be involved in some way such as meeting with officers that support HWB to increase the joined-up approach. Reconfiguration of the NHS locally regarding the bid from the Royal Free Trust on North Middlesex University hospital. The HWB over the last 18 months has set out the administration's view of what is in the pipeline, and clarity has been requested on a number of issues. The third point is around the Clinical Commissioning Group mergers. Members are welcomed through the scrutiny panel to provide some interrogation. This is important as there is a looming crisis on waiting times due to delays caused by Covid and the inequality this will create.
- Following a query, it was confirmed that all sites have been looked and principals for growth in the borough as part of the draft Local Plan. This includes a focus on town centre and transport hubs. The issue of equity was raised regarding skyscrapers, accepting that taller buildings are more appropriate in certain areas and that taller buildings must be equitable across the borough and not concentrated all in one place. The leader agreed that details of policies relating to taller buildings will be circulated to the committee.
- Are there any concerns on community safety following Covid? The Leader confirmed that the joint Crime Prevention plan plays an important part in this and will seek to continue to deliver on this. Violence against women and children has increased during Covid, there have been renewed efforts to highlight this. The levels of Anti-

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Social Behaviour referred to by the police as low-level crime is a concern.

The Leader was thanked for her attendance and providing a comprehensive overview.

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PLANNING THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2021/22

The Chair introduced this item, the aim is to plan the work programme and prioritise items for the business meetings for the year. It was highlighted that there are a number of items outstanding from the last year. There was an item on Flytipping that was not taken last year due to purdah and it was agreed that an update on the Build the Change programme would come back to the Committee.

The Chair also suggested the following areas for the work plan:

- The Local Plan
- Town Centres
- Consultations including how these are put forward, what procedure has been followed, how has feedback been received and acted upon.
- Cllr Greer has put forward the suggestion of Cemetery work following the re-organisation of the service. How is this being implemented, what is the programme to ensure that support is provided where needed.

Members were then invited to put forward suggestions for the coming year. The range of suggestions included the following:

- The Local Plan is very important and should be taken early to fit in with consultation timetables. Including building on the utilisation of Brownfield and Greenbelt sites and what the options are?
- Regarding whether briefings come to OSC it was noted briefings on big issues are provided to political groups. It was important that there is sufficient time for other items. It was raised that workshops and briefings have been helpful and engaging on the Regeneration Scrutiny panel in the last year. This was in addition to the scheduled meetings at was at the panels request.
- There is a lot of items going through national government at present such as White paper on Planning, National Health Bill, Police and Crime Bill, and the Integrated Care Programme. Would it be appropriate to invite the MP's and/ or the Greater London Assembly Member to meet with scrutiny? Officers agreed to look into this suggestion further.
- Planning felt there could be a discussion on the White Paper
- Fly tipping, this should include what the Council is doing, what is in place, what enforcements are in place. This should also include specific trends and what is the disparity between the east and west of the borough, aligning this with areas of economic deprivation. How can recycling be increased.

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- Covid could be looked at from an internal and external point of view. Internal could incorporate the update on the Build the Change programme, what learning has the Council made to how we do business internally and externally what lessons has the council learned to what can be done differently and has any reflection been undertaken looking at where things could have been done differently at each set of lockdowns to ensure that as an authority the council can be future proofed.
- Town Centres as an item could sit under the Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Panel or by OSC from a wider point of view from a delivery prospective and where the Council is looking at encompassing within the Local Plan within this. The previous work on the workstream on Town Centres could be reviewed.
- All Panel Chairs should look at the work programme from the last year and consider any items outstanding from last year's work programmes.
- It was suggested that throughout the year each Panel Chair could give a very brief verbal update on the work they are undertaking.

The Chair summarised the topics from discussions as follows:

- Poverty & Inequality Commission update
- Local Plan
- Flytipping
- Build the Change
- Consultations
- Town Centres
- Cemeteries
- Covid 19
- White Paper on Planning

The Chair reminded members that when planning items for the work programmes of both OSC and the individual panels there is a need to be very clear and specific on the information, questions and queries being raised or requested. This allows the officers to prepare a detailed report specifically on the areas where there is a concern and ensures that they have covering the relevant information. There will be flexibility on the work programme but the terms of reference for each item must be very focused.

Any further suggestions and new ideas can still be emailed through.

It was agreed that the Local Plan item come to the next meeting of the Committee on the 13 July. The Chair will work with officers on a draft Work Programme this will be brought to the next meeting of OSC on 13 July 2021.

A draft of all scrutiny panel work programmes will come to the next meeting of the committee.

It was suggested that when agenda planning sufficient time is allowed for each item and was suggested that there are two substantive items for each business meeting

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The Chair advised that training from the Centre for Public Scrutiny on work programming will be arranged and detailed with be sent to all OSC members.

Claire Johnson will send an email on the process for the work planning coming back to scrutiny.

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DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The date of the next business meeting and provisional call in meeting was noted.