MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLACE SHAPING AND ENTERPRISE SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2010

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT
Toby Simon (Chairman), Henry Lamprecht (Vice-Chairman),
Alan Barker, Yusuf Cicek, Joanne Laban, Derek Levy and
Ozzie Uzoanya

ABSENT
Michael Lavender and Rohini Simbodyal

OFFICERS:
Sally McTernan (Acting Director of Place Shaping and
Enterprise), Neil Rousell (Co Director of Education, Children's
Services and Leisure), Sharon Strutt (Place Shaping and
Enterprise), Stephen Tapper (Assistant Director - Place
Shaping and Enterprise), Linda Leith (Corporate Scrutiny),
Richard Tyler (Acting Assistant Director F&CR) Penelope
Williams (Secretary)

Also Attending:
Councillor Doug Taylor (Leader of the Council), Councillor Del
Goddard (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving
Localities) and one member of the public

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WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Simon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Simbodyal and
Lavender.

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DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Simon declared a personal interest in item 6 Update on
Developments in the Enfield Town Place Shaping Area as he lived in the area.
Councillor Cicek also declared a personal interest in this item as his office was
in the town.

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BUDGET CONSULTATION

The panel received a copy of the Enfield Spending Review 2011/12
Information and Consultation paper together with a report on the consultation
and an appendix setting out the impact the proposals will have on place
shaping and enterprise activities.

1. Budget Presentation
Richard Tyler, Acting Assistant Director of Finance and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Doug Taylor, gave a power point presentation. Copies of the presentation are available on the council’s website or on request from the Committee Secretary.

Key points of the presentation were as follows:-

- The paper sets out spending proposals that the council is consulting upon.
- The full details of the Government’s settlement for Enfield have not yet been received but are due in the next couple of weeks.
- The proposals cover the lifetime of the current administration.
- There will be no increase in Council tax in 2011/12 but thereafter it is predicted that council tax will increase by 3%.
- The spending review is front loaded which means that the largest cuts will fall in the first year 2011/12. It is estimated that these will be approximately 12% of the current budget.
- Budget pressures in 2011/12 will add up to approximately £29.6 million. £10 million worth of capital savings have already been identified and approved by Cabinet leaving £19.4 million to find.
- It is these additional savings that the council is consulting upon. This is a significant challenge. The economic climate remains uncertain and the budget gap remains.
- The extra report, with appendix, contains an impact assessment of how the proposals will relate to the areas covered by this panel.

2. Questions/Comments

2.1 The cost of providing fire sprinklers in houses of multiple occupation is marked as nil, as this will be found from within existing resources.

2.2 Maintaining £10 million in the general fund balance, which represents approximately one percent of the budget, was felt to be sensible by both political sides of the panel.

2.3 In July 2010, the council had already had to reduce spending by approximately £7 million. Grants had been withdrawn which had had a significant impact on regeneration and children’s services including money from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund and the Future Jobs Fund. The cost of activities provided through these funding mechanisms had had to be found from council resources.
2.4 Councillor Goddard felt that it was unlikely, if the Government withdrew all funding in March 2011, that the council would be able to cover the full £1.5 million which would be needed to cover the costs of the Jobsnet job brokerage scheme, but that they hoped to find ways to keep at least some of its work going. Gavin Redman at Jobsnet was carrying out some research on possibilities for the provision of future services which would be shared with the Getting People into Work Working Group.

2.5 Although there were difficult decisions to be made on cuts it was important to look at priorities and at different ways to make savings: involving partner organisations, managing expectations.

2.6 Despite the cuts, much investment would be continuing: projects such as the Ladderswood Estate and Highmead will be going ahead. Discussions were also taking place with the owners of the former university site and on Meridian Water.

2.7 Councillor Goddard said that the officers were working with the difficulties and that they would respond to developers and investment activity to ensure that the proposals put forward would fit in with what was best for the community.

2.8 The work that would have been carried out by private consultants would now be done internally. Stephen Tapper said that we had the good quality staff to do the work required although it would take longer to do and only one project could be worked on at a time. They would be looking at re-profiling the way things are done and making short cuts. The Coalition Government are planning some changes to the planning system which may be helpful.

2.9 Councillor Goddard emphasised that we needed to ensure that the service could respond to any new movement from developers on key sites and balance the use of the resources available.

2.10 The Government were also looking at new proposals for the creation of a neighbourhood plan.

2.11 The reduction in the amount of funds available for support to the voluntary sector was proportionate to the reductions as a whole. No discussion had yet taken place on the funding for individual groups.

2.12 Councillor Lamprecht thought that there was unlikely that the government would provide other funds for the voluntary sector as they believed that voluntary meant voluntary. He sited the example of a small group of young conservatives who had set up a scheme to help people into work with a 100% success rate. Information on this would be provided to the panel’s working group.
2.13 There was a wide spectrum of jobless situations which each required different responses.

2.14 The £2.9 million of Connexions Funding was in doubt. It was hoped that some of it would be included in the new Early Intervention Grant. This was part of the £10.4 million grant funding which the council was still waiting for information on.

2.15 Many local authorities were having to reduce support to their youth services.

2.16 The Government seemed to think that support provided by grants would not affect front line services but Councillor Goddard thought that this was not true. Many services which were grant supported had a direct impact upon young people, helping them to develop the skills they needed to move into adult working life.

2.17 There was concern that the voluntary sector may not have the capacity or be able to pick up the services provided by the Connexions Service, should its funding be cut. Young people often found it easier to relate to a personal advisor.

AGREED that the comments above be forwarded on for inclusion in the overall scrutiny response to the Council’s budget consultation document.

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EUROPEAN AND OTHER EXTERNAL FUNDING SOURCES

Sally McTernan, Acting Director of Place Shaping and Enterprise Scrutiny Panel, gave a verbal update on the external funding sources available to Place Shaping.

1. Verbal Update

Sally McTernan highlighted the following:

- There is a lot of uncertainty over future European Social Funding and other external funding sources.

- The London Development Agency had recently been disbanded – projects under contract had been honoured but there was no certainty about the funding of future projects.

- The London Development Agency had administered the European Regional Development Fund. Bidders would now be responsible for finding their own match funding. In theory the funding was safe but the mechanisms for the future were unclear.
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- There was also a lack of clarity about the future of the Homes and Communities Agency funding, from which the council had benefited in the past.

- The funding for next year’s Borough Investment Plan is all but committed.

- The council is waiting to see how much other funding will be available.

2. Questions/Comments

2.1 The Government did not seem to have thought through how the work of the regional development agencies will be replaced, which is a big problem for Enfield. If the schemes default, then the money will go back to Europe.

2.2 The Mayor of London is known to be sympathetic to the problem.

2.3 Feasibility work will continue on providing a bid for a heat and energy grid for North and East London.

2.4 The £100 million London JESSICA (Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas) holding fund will continue to exist to provide a funding source for decentralised energy projects.

2.5 The Ladderswood Estate, on its own, would not support a combined heat and power installation but could as part of a mass of developments. This will be a possibility for Meridian Water and the new Tottenham Hotspur Football Ground. There was a need to work sub regionally.

AGREED that

1. A letter would be written to the Mayor of London, on behalf of the scrutiny panel, signed by both Councillor Simon and Lamprecht, expressing concern about future arrangements for obtaining European funding, asking for clarity on what would replace the functions of the London Development Agency.

   **Action:** Sally McTernan

2. A report would be bought to the next meeting of the panel setting out the outcomes from the council spending review as well as information on the grants lost to the council and how this will affect the work of place shaping and enterprise in the future.

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UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEW SOUTHGATE PLACE SHAPING AREA
The panel received an update on developments in the New Southgate Place Shaping Area.

1. **Presentation of Report**

Sharon Strutt, Place Shaping Projects and Developments Manager, introduced the report.

- This was an update on the fuller report produced for the panel in July 2010.

- Bidders for the Ladderswood Estate have been reduced from three to two (Notting Hill Housing Trust/Higgins and Mullalley/One Housing Group). Tenders will be submitted in January with a final decision due in April 2011.

- Discussions are continuing with landowners of the Western Gateway site.

- A conservation management plan is to be produced to explore how to make better use of the site which contains listed buildings.

- Proposals to improve access to Arnos Grove Station were being developed. Transport for London are keen to redevelop the car parks on site for residential use whilst keeping the existing number of parking spaces. There is an opportunity here to work with Barnet. Pedestrian access to the station will also be improved.

- There are plans to close the Coppicewood Lodge Care Home when the residents are moved to a new dual use home. The site will be developed as a flexible, more mixed use development.

- Safety and public realm improvements will be made to the existing estates: Red Brick, High Road and High View.

- There are plans to improve the open spaces and the connections between them.

- Area wide issues such as improving energy and sustainability infrastructure were also being put forward as well as the possibility of accommodating an extra form of entry at Garfield School.

- An outreach office is being established as a community hub with job brokerage, connexions and housing advice.

- A new youth centre had recently been launched at St Paul’s Parish Church. Several councillors had attended.

2. **Questions/Comments**
2.1 Councillor Lamprecht felt that as a ward councillor he should have been invited to the youth opening. Councillor Goddard understood that he had. This would be looked at to ensure that all ward councillors were invited to future events.

2.2 Councillor Lamprecht praised the officers for the excellent work that they had achieved in this area.

2.3 Enfield in Bloom were organising some volunteers to continue and maintain the new planting.

2.4 Transport for London were in dialogue with Enfield Heritage about the final design for the Arnos Grove Station project.

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UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ENFIELD TOWN PLACE SHAPING AREA

The panel received an update report on the Enfield Town Place Shaping Area.

1. Presentation of the report

- Councillor Goddard said that although plans for Enfield Town were not the top priority, compared with the pressing need in the South and East of the borough, work still needed to be done.

- There are issues surrounding the original West Anglia Line modernisation scheme which would have involved moving the stations back to create more space in front of the station but the Council was talking to two other land owners about proposals for the area. Early consultations on the area action planning process had taken place and been broadly supportive of the proposals.

- Stephen Tapper said that the recession had caused developer interest to drop away although Kier was involved in a joint venture.

- The council needed to act as a catalyst using any interest arising from the various sites including the council owned former public house site.

- There are developments taking place in Enfield Town including the completion of the new library and the Dugdale Centre and the redevelopment of the Gala Bingo Hall site. This last will create an attractive new walk through area.

- The shopping in Enfield Town has improved. The main competition is from Brookfield Farm. Enfield Town is a more attractive place to shop, a place with a distinctive character. Development around the station will enhance this.
• The creation of an integrated transport hub with the idea of moving the bus station from the western end of the town had been discussed with Transport for London.

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MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2010

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The panel agreed the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Wrotham Park

Members had been sent additional information on Wrotham Park.

2.2 Dugdale Centre

The Dugdale Centre will be considered by Audit Committee in the New Year 2011.

Post Meeting Note: the Environment Scrutiny Panel is looking at this so the Audit Committee may not get involved.

2.3 Community Infrastructure Levy

Stephen Tapper tabled a paper updating the panel on the Government’s new proposals for the community infrastructure levy. He highlighted the key changes:

• A proportion of the money obtained through the levy will have to be returned to local communities.
• Restrictions will be placed on what the levy can be spent on.
• Legislation will be included in the Government’s Localism bill.
• There will be changes to the role of the Planning Inspector.

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WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11

The panel noted the revised work programme for 2010/11.

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ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Comments on the budget will be referred on to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for inclusion in the overall scrutiny response to the budget.

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ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO CABINET
There are no items to be referred to Cabinet.

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DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The panel noted the dates agreed for future meetings:

- Wednesday 2 February 2011
- Thursday 24 March 2011