

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2012**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Achilleas Georgiou (Deputy Leader), Bambos Charalambous (Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure) and Christine Hamilton (Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and Public Health)

ABSENT Doug Taylor (Leader of the Council)

OFFICERS: Rob Flynn (Corporate Policy and Research Manager, Communities, Communications, Policy and Performance), Paul Walker (Assistant Director, Regeneration, Planning & Programme Management), Joanne Woodward (Head of Strategic Planning and Design) and Simon Tendeter (Assistant Director Communities, Communications, Policy and Performance) Jacqui Hurst (Secretary)

**1
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Doug Taylor (Leader of the Council).

**2
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3
URGENT ITEMS**

NOTED that the reports 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 and Meetings) (England) Regulations 2012. These requirements state that agendas and reports should be circulated at least 5 clear days in advance of meetings.

**4
CHANGES TO PLANNING LEGISLATION**

RECEIVED a presentation from Paul Walker, Assistant Director Regeneration, Leisure and Culture, and Joanne Woodward, Head of Strategic Planning and Design, on recent changes to planning legislation.

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NOTED

1. the following issues highlighted during the presentation:
 - Localism Act – Implications for Planning
 - Planning Reforms One Year On
 - Neighbourhood Planning Across London
 - National Planning Policy Framework – An Overview
 - National Planning Policy Framework – Headline Messages
 - Implementation of the National Planning Policy Framework
 - Implications for Enfield
 - Proposed Changes to Permitted Development Rights
 - Other recent and forthcoming consultations
2. in response to Members' questions, Joanne Woodward explained the process and timescales for reforming the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Enfield had not yet set its CIL but was in the process of doing so. A discussion took place on the potential impact for development in the Borough and how the viability of the CIL would be assessed. The Mayor of London had a separate CIL which would also apply in Enfield. Members discussed the CIL levels being implemented by neighbouring Boroughs.
3. Joanne Woodward explained the current situation across London with regard to neighbourhood planning. Interest across London had been mixed so far for the establishment of neighbourhood forums. It was a complex process which was explained to Members.
4. Members were advised of the implications for Enfield. It was noted that the Development Management Document Proposed Submission had been consulted upon over the summer. The Development Management Submission Document was due to be presented to full Council in the new year.
5. Members noted that there was a current consultation document with regard to proposed changes to permitted development rights. It was anticipated that new legislation could be in place by Spring 2013. The intention was to allow householders greater flexibility. Planning Committee Members were due to receive a briefing on the proposals. The Council would be responding to the consultation.
6. Members discussed the Government's planning proposals in detail but expressed the view that the current economic climate was having a greater negative impact on developments than existing planning regulations.
7. in response to questions from Members, Paul Walker explained the Compulsory Purchase Powers (CPO) of the authority and the circumstances in which this course of action could be pursued.

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8. Members questioned and discussed the responses to the various Government consultation documents and how best for the Council to consider and respond. It was noted that the response on the proposed changes to permitted development rights needed to be submitted by 24 December 2012 and would be agreed by the two lead Cabinet Members following consideration by Planning Committee Members. For other consultations such as the Growth and Infrastructure Bill it was felt that consideration should be given to whether it would be appropriate for discussions to take place in other Member forums such as the appropriate Scrutiny Panels or the Strategic Leadership Forum. Further consideration would be given to the most effective way forward. If appropriate such consultation responses could also be discussed with the Borough's MPs.

Members expressed their thanks to Paul Walker and Joanne Woodward for their informative presentation.

5 ADDRESSING FOOD POVERTY

RECEIVED a briefing paper on the current consultation on Food Poverty in London.

NOTED

1. that an investigation into Food Poverty was currently taking place on behalf of the Greater London Authority's (GLA) Health and Environment Committee. Views were being sought on this issue and a number of key questions had been presented as set out in the briefing paper;
2. Members discussed the question of whether "food banks were a sustainable response to food poverty". It was felt that they would not be sustainable in the future as demand increased and further financial cuts were implemented.
3. the impact of the Government's welfare reforms was discussed in particular for Outer London Boroughs at a time when local authorities were facing further funding cuts. The Council's ability to respond to demands for assistance would become increasingly difficult.
4. Rob Flynn outlined for Members the activities currently taking place in Enfield as set out in the briefing paper. Members asked that this form part of the Council's response to the consultation document. Councillor Hamilton advised Members of initiatives taking place in the Enfield Island Village. The use of the Enfield Residents' Priority Fund was also noted.

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5. Rob Flynn agreed to prepare a draft response to the consultation document for Members' consideration and agreement. This would be circulated to Members of the Policy Cabinet Sub-Committee shortly.

6 PARISH COUNCILS

RECEIVED a briefing paper on the Government's consultation paper on "Making it easier to set up new town and parish councils, discussion paper from the Department for Communities and Local Government".

NOTED

1. that the Government believed that the existing rules for establishing town and parish Councils were too complex and they had therefore issued a consultation document to gain views on how this process could be made easier;
2. the current methods of establishing such Councils, as set out in the briefing paper. In order to address the Government's issues of concern, three potential options were being consulted upon:
 - Option 1 – amending existing guidance
 - Option 2 – Changing the law
 - Option 3 – making it easier for neighbourhood forums to start off the process of creating a new parish council.

Members discussed the impact of the proposals on Enfield Council as set out in the briefing paper. It was noted that there had been no apparent demand for parish councils to be set up in Enfield to date.

3. in conclusion, Members noted the options detailed within the Government's consultation paper and thanked officers for drawing this issue to the attention of the Sub-Committee. Members asked that they be advised of any expressions of interest received by Enfield Council in the future.

7 POLICY GRID - AN ASSESSMENT OF NEW LEGISLATION, STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMMES

RECEIVED the current policy grid assessing new legislation strategies and programmes.

NOTED

1. Members requested that James Rolfe (Director of Finance, Resources and Customer Services) be asked to provide a briefing note for Sub-Committee Members on the current position with regard to Business

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Rate localisation (Local Government Finance Bill – Council Tax Localisation and Business Rate Localisation);

2. that the Electoral Registration Bill was currently being considered by the Electoral Review Panel. Members asked that they receive a briefing note on the progress of this Bill following consideration by the Electoral Review Panel.

8

ROLE OF THE POLICY CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE IN DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE COUNCIL BEYOND 2014

RECEIVED a briefing paper on Enfield Council beyond 2014 for consideration by the Sub-Committee.

Councillor Georgiou sought Members' views on whether the Sub-Committee should have a role in considering the future policy issues for the Council itself as well as continuing to focus on external policy developments. Members discussed the way forward and noted that the Council would need to change in 2014 to enable it to meet the financial challenges ahead. Members would need to consider the Council's priorities in the light of this and as part of the Council's Leaner Programme.

Members agreed that the Policy Cabinet Sub-Committee should consider the way forward in more detail at its next meeting and that Neil Rousell (Director of Regeneration, Leisure and Culture), as the lead officer for the "Future Council" pillar of the Council's Leaner Programme, be invited to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee to discuss the future direction of the Council and how best to prepare for any changes ahead. Members would wish to focus on local demands and to explore the risks and threats of the various options open to the Council. It would also be helpful to receive an overview of the Borough's population figures and future projections as well as the financial outlook. The challenges ahead would need to be considered in the light of this and the impact on the Council's future.

9

MPs' BRIEFING

NOTED the issues which had been discussed at the last meeting with local MPs. Members were advised that the next meeting with the Borough's MPs was due to take place on 7 December 2012.

10

MINUTES - 26 SEPTEMBER 2012

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2012 be agreed as a correct record.

11

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no outstanding matters arising from the minutes.

12

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

NOTED that the next meeting of the Policy Cabinet Sub-Committee was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 6 March 2013 at 7.30pm.