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OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 12.6.2018

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 12 JUNE 2018

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Derek Levy, Huseyin Akpinar, Tolga Aramaz, Gina Needs, Lee David-Sanders and Edward Smith

ABSENT Susan Erbil

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

OFFICERS: Sarah Cary (Executive Director, Place), Fay Hammond (Director of Finance), Gary Barnes (Director of Property, Regeneration & Environment), Susan O'Connell (Scrutiny Officer), Stacey Gilmour (Scrutiny Secretary)

Also Attending: Councillor Ahmet Oykenar (Cabinet Member Property & Assets), Councillor Doug Taylor (Observing), Councillor Joanne Laban (Leader of the Opposition-Observing), Ethan Roberts (Enfield Youth Parliament)

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WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair, Councillor Levy welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the municipal year and extended a special welcome to the Enfield Youth Parliament representative. He acknowledged that it was almost a brand new committee so there were lots of new faces around the table.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Susan Erbil and Alicia Meniru and Simon Goulden, Co-opted Members. It was noted that Councillor Bernadette Lappage was substituting for Councillor Susan Erbil.

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ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Councillor Gina Needs was elected as Vice Chair for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lappage raised a possible interest in item 4 of the agenda; Genotin Road Car Park, Enfield Town as she is a Parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, London Road, Enfield.

The Chair said that he did not think this would be an issue due to the way in which the report will be reported this evening. It would however be noted for the minutes.

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GENOTIN ROAD CAR PARK, ENFIELD TOWN

RECEIVED a report from Sarah Cary, Executive Director Place.

The Chair, Councillor Levy advised that the report is still currently a draft document; however it is the role of OSC as a critical friend to inform, comment and possibly modify the report if necessary. However, it is not the role of OSC today to discuss the implications of what may happen further down the road as these are material considerations for planning. Cabinet will make a decision on the recommendations which may possibly include other recommendations that arise at this evening's meeting.

NOTED:

- i) The report follows a Cabinet report on the strategy for Genotin Road Car Park which went to Cabinet in November 2017.
- ii) Cabinet supported the retention of Metaswitch in the Borough and noted the development of a new office for them would support Enfield Town renewal and deliver positive outcomes for the whole borough.
- iii) Cabinet delegated authority to Officers to progress final terms of the Option Agreement for the identified site of the Genotin Road car park. The delegation required a further report to Cabinet prior to any Option Agreement being entered into.
- iv) The aim of this report is for Cabinet to enable the Council to fund development of, and to grant an institutional lease for, grade A office building to Metaswitch Networks Ltd at an acceptable rate of return, whilst retaining this major employer and business in Enfield Town.
- v) It is recommended that Cabinet delegate authority to the executive Director Place and Executive Director Resources to agree final heads of Terms and enter into a contract on those terms for either Option 1 or 2, the full details of which are laid out in the Part 1 report attached to the agenda.
- vi) Fay Hammond, Director of Finance explained the alternative options that have been considered, and again, these are detailed in the part 1 report.
- vii) Sarah and Fay provided members with further information of the proposed plans and in-depth discussions took place.

Following discussions the following questions/comments were raised:

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- Q. It is understood from the report that the preferred option for the Council is Option 1. Is this correct and are Metaswitch definitely on board for this option?
- A. Yes, Metaswitch have formally accepted the terms and our lawyers should have a draft copy of the Heads of Terms in their inbox today.
- Q. Why do you think it is the best option for the Council to fund this for Metaswitch?
- A. The due diligence that we have undertaken has proven this to be the best option as we will still have an asset at the end of it. Councillor Smith commented that the Council could still get what it wants without borrowing millions of pounds. Sarah advised that there would be a lot more detail regarding this information in the Part 2 report.
- Q. Are the Council going to manage this project?
- A. We will approve the project at certain points but we won't be managing it.
- Q. Why would you dispose of an asset, i.e. the car park which generates approximately £200,000 in income per year? We are meant to be encouraging more foot-fall into Enfield Town so why would you dispose of a car park?
- A. We will ensure that car park income is part of the due diligence process. We will also need to look at options for increasing car parking in Enfield.

The Chair said that it is important to ensure that answers to all the questions raised today are fully incorporated into the report to Cabinet. He said that if we are suggesting at the moment that the Council are moving to a decision to retain a company in Enfield town, we need to be mindful of the implications of this and these issues need to be thoroughly looked at and addressed.

Further questions were raised which included:

- What are the long term plan/implications? What is the forward plan if in 15/20 years Metaswitch leave Enfield?
- Who will get the income if Metaswitch decide to rent out the car park in the evenings and at weekends?
- Has a cost analysis been done on what Metaswitch employees currently spend in Enfield Town? Can we see details of the Cost Benefit Analysis that have been undertaken?
- What are the options for Metaswitch funding this deal themselves?
- Will Metaswitch be covering the loss to the Council for future car park charges?
- Why is there no Equalities Impact Assessment included in the report? It was felt that the proposed build would have a huge impact on the community and local residents as well as local faith communities who regularly use the car park at times of worship.

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- Are we as a Council being driven by what Metaswitch want or are we doing this as it really is what's best for the Council?
- Further concrete evidence should be included in the report to Cabinet on what other car parking will be made available for use in Enfield (e.g. schools etc). Convincing and specific information is required.
- We are making assumptions about how much Metaswitch contribute to the viability of the Town Centre. Again specific and concrete evidence is required.
- Cost Benefit Analysis figures should be included in the Part 2 report to Cabinet.

The Chair finalised this item by advising Officers that the Cabinet Report needs to fully answer and acknowledge all the questions and points raised this evening.

He reminded Members and Officers that reports are open to the Call-In process so all future reports need to be robust and transparent. This discussion has been a perfect example of pre-decision scrutiny and he hoped Officers had found it useful.

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WORK PROGRAMME & WORK STREAMS 2018/19

The Chair invited Councillor Anderson, Deputy Leader, to outline the Cabinet's priorities for 2018/19 and discussion took place on possible scrutiny topics.

Councillor Anderson referred to the continued financial pressures on Enfield including the further cuts of £20 million that need to be made. An ageing and growing population continues to cause increasing challenges as does Social Care due to the insufficient way it is funded. He said that it was still very early stages as to where we are at with Cabinet. The Leader of the Council has given Cabinet Members specific work to do with their Officers to map out short, medium and long term plans and it will become clearer in the next month or so what the position/outcomes will be. The Leader has mapped out three priorities in her manifesto. These are:

- Reducing Crime.
- Tackling Child Poverty.
- Affordable Housing

Information still has to be formulated into a manner that we can work with.

The Chair advised that he has invited the Leader of the Council to attend a special meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Meeting on the 26 July 2018 to provide members with a better understanding of her plans/visions.

AGREED that a calendar invitation be sent to all Members for this meeting.

ACTION: Scrutiny Secretary

The following issues for consideration were discussed -

- Budget - Keep tabs on what are the knock on effects of different decisions the Council are making. The Chair added at this point that a

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standing financial OSC Panel may be something to be looked at further down the road. He also said Budget issues will be captured as part of OSC one way or another this year. Councillor Anderson said there are discussions to be had with the Chair of OSC and officers to look at the restructure of the Scrutiny function and how we can bolster it to ensure a much more strategic approach.

- Commercial Arm of the Council – what proposals are they looking at/what is possible. Really need to be scrutinising what they are doing, this should be part of the financial structure. Need to look at contracting arrangements/comparisons with other boroughs, tendering processes and the use of agency staff.
- Place, People, Resource – Does this leave any gaps in the structure of how the organisation is running. What can fall through the gaps?
- Customer Services – Not just physical contacts (e.g. face to face/phone) but IT services as there are clear failing here and work still needs to be done.
- Planning Department – There are currently major challenges in recruiting and retaining appropriate and adequate staff as many are going to work in the private sector. Pressure in teams is difficult, need to look at different ways of working. Need to keep tabs on this and look at Performance Indicators. Solutions need to be found fairly quickly.
- London Plan – Where do we stand and what are the future challenges of the Mayoral Plan.
- Housing Repairs and Maintenance – Continued problems with contractors and standards. How affective are we and where are the weaknesses?
- High Streets – Enfield Town Masterplan- is this still relevant in view of the current situation in retail as a whole. This has serious ramifications for the health of our high streets.
- Meridian Waters - This is due back on the table imminently. Currently firming up plans and these will become apparent in the near future
- Public Space Protection Orders- How effective are these? (e.g. tackling racers on the A10)
- New Recycling Facility in the Eastern Side of the Borough- This is one of our objectives, which will be brought forward in the next couple of years.
- Idea of New Waste Facility and Eco Park – ongoing discussions which will have an impact if implemented.

The Chair thanked Councillor Anderson for his informative update which had been most helpful in pointing the Committee towards populating its main Work Programme for 2018/19.

He also assured Members that Schools and Children's Services will continue to be a standing item on OSC agendas as Education is integral to our Work Programme.

The Chair went on to say that the Work Programme and Work Streams will not be resolved today. However the committee does not have to wait to its

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next meeting to populate these as members can communicate in-between meetings. He did advise however that the Standing Scrutiny Panels for Health and Crime would remain and the membership proportionality for each of these panels would remain at 5:2.

The Chair for the Health Scrutiny Panel will be Councillor Huseyin Akpinar and the Chair for the Crime Scrutiny Panel will be Councillor Lee David Sanders.

AGREED that the Scrutiny Officer will be in touch with the Party Whips to populate membership of the Standing Panels.

Action: Scrutiny Officer

Councillor Smith commented that he got the impression that there will now be a very different attitude towards scrutiny then there had been in the past and he found this most encouraging.

The Committee then discussed various ideas and suggestions for future Work Streams. The Chair explained that the key to any Work Stream is that it is purposeful with a meaningful outcome. He emphasised that Work Streams have to be very focused in order to achieve an outcome. The Committee would initially need to agree on three, possibly four potential Work Streams. By the time the Work Streams are decided and scoped it was envisaged that the work on these would kick off in September with a view to completing them in this municipal year. It was hoped that the Committee will have agreed on three topics by the time of the next OSC meeting on 12 July 2018.

The following suggestions were put forward as potential Work Streams:

- Transition of Children Leaving Care;
- High Streets- focusing on the issue of empty shops in Enfield Town/the borough;
- John Wilkes House- Housing Allocation Policy/Home Finder Process
- London Plan- this was discussed but it was felt that it was too big of an issue to include as a stand-alone Work Stream;
- Review of Customer Services;
- Education- school places/results in the Borough;
- Fly Tipping/associated criminal activity;
- Effectiveness of Public Health

The Chair thanked the Committee for their ideas and suggestions and said he hoped to have the Work Streams and their memberships finalised by the next meeting of OSC on 12 July 2018. He would liaise with the Scrutiny Officer by the end of the week to prioritise some subjects and radiate to Members as soon as possible.

Action-Chair with Scrutiny Officer

In the meantime Councillor Levy asked members to liaise with the Scrutiny Officer, Susan O'Connell if they have any further comments/ suggestions.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2018

AGREED the minutes of the meetings held on 11 April 2018.

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DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

NOTED the dates of future meeting as follows:

Provisional Call-Ins

Tuesday 19 June, 2018
Thursday 9 August, 2018
Thursday 13 September, 2018
Thursday 11 October, 2018
Thursday 8 November, 2018
Thursday 6 December, 2018
Thursday 20 December, 2018
Thursday 7 February 2019
Tuesday 12 March 2019
Tuesday 26 March, 2019
Thursday 11 April, 2019

Please note, the business meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be held on:

Thursday 12 July, 2018
Thursday 26 July 2018 (Special OSC meeting to hear from the Leader of the Council about her plans/visions)
Wednesday 5 September, 2018
Wednesday 7 November, 2018
Tuesday 12 February, 2019
Wednesday 3 April, 2019

The Overview & Scrutiny Budget Meeting will be held on:

Tuesday 15 January, 2019

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