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OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 12.7.2018

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 12 JULY 2018

COUNCILLORS: Derek Levy (Chair), Gina Needs (Vice-Chair), Huseyin Akpinar, Tolga Aramaz, Susan Erbil, Lee David-Sanders, Edward Smith.

PRESENT

STATUTORY CO-OPTees 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: David Morris (Head of Parking), Sharon Burgess (Head of Safeguarding Adults), Bharat Ayer (Safeguarding Adults Team Manager), Susan O'Connell (Scrutiny Officer), Elaine Huckell (Scrutiny Secretary)

Also Attending Councillor Guney Dogan (Cabinet Member for Environment), Councillor Joanne Laban (Leader of the Opposition), Bilal Srhir (Enfield Youth Parliament Representative) (EYP) and 2 other councillors and 2 members of the public.

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WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Councillor Levy welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from Co-optee -Simon Goulden and Lily Hassan from the Youth Parliament.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Susan Erbil announced she was a cousin of Councillor Guney Dogan and would withdraw from the meeting for discussion of the first item on 'Call-In – To implement increases to pay and display charges to encourage higher turnover of short stay bays'.

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CALL-IN - TO IMPLEMENT INCREASES TO PAY AND DISPLAY CHARGES TO ENCOURAGE HIGHER TURNOVER OF SHORT STAY BAYS

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The Chair invited Councillor Laban to outline the reasons for Call-in.

- Councillor Laban referred to one of the areas of concern - that the decision to increase on- street parking charges would negatively affect those on low and fixed incomes. She said for those people who live in Enfield Town they would probably chose to walk to the town, however for those coming from further afield and especially for those with restricted income they may prefer to go to the retail park or to Brookfield Farm where they would not need to pay a parking charge. She thought this may be considered an 'equalities issue' as it affects the poorer members of the community.
- The decision to increase on street parking charges negatively affects those residents who may have disabilities but who do not qualify for a 'blue badge'. This could result in increasing social isolation for those who may find it more difficult to leave their homes.
- That the decision does not take into account any further loss of car parking spaces that may occur in the borough in the near future. Previous discussions around the loss of parking spaces at Genotin Road do not appear to have been considered in this proposal to increase charges. By reducing supply should the proposals for Genotin Road be approved, and increasing charges this would significantly affect the local economy and local shops.
- Although proposals would affect the local economy there has been a lack of consultation with local businesses. Cllr Laban said local traders know the area best and we should listen to what they have to say.
- The Masterplan for the borough had been agreed during the election however there is no reference to parking and how changes would affect the Masterplan for Enfield.

Councillor Laban said we would be charging people more to park which goes against the principle of 'Fairness for All'. She said the proposals were not fair for people who are trading and also not fair on the community. She requested that the decision be referred back to the Cabinet Member for Environment for reconsideration.

The Chair invited Councillor Dogan as Cabinet member for Environment and David Morris as the Head of Parking to respond, as follows:

- The increase in on-street parking charges are proportionate to deliver the outcome we want, which is to deter long stayers and improve a better turnover of spaces. Parking charges for on-street parking in Enfield and outer Enfield areas for 15 minutes would be increasing from 40p to 50p it is thought this would not be enough to deter parking. Benchmarking has been done with other local boroughs and we compare favourably with them.
- The increase in charges should not negatively affect residents who have disabilities. You are entitled to a blue badge if you are unable to walk further than 50 metres and there are very few paying parking bays further than 50m from our shopping areas.
- Mention was made that the decision does not take into account the loss of any parking spaces in future, however under the Equalities

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Impact Assessment we would review parking charges in the next two years to ensure they are still fit for purpose.

- We appreciate that there are empty shops in Enfield Town but we need to encourage short term parking, by ensuring people stay for a short while and then leave.
- We have been asked to consider the option of some free periods of parking, however costs would be higher for attendants to monitor this and it has therefore been considered that paid parking is the best option.
- Parking is not connected with the Masterplan, however it is hoped that appropriately set parking charges would contribute to a more vital shopping centre.

The following questions/ issues were raised:

Q. When were parking charges last increased?

A. In 2011.

Q. Under 'Key Risks' in the report it states that with any change in parking tariffs there are concerns from stakeholders that this will affect the high street, does this mean we should have spoken to businesses?

A. We looked at increasing charges by a higher amount but in the end we decided to keep increases at a lower level and review them in two years' time. We do not increase charges very often, we did consider going to businesses but this is about the turnover of parking spaces and there was already evidence from surveys undertaken for us to increase parking charges.

Q. The estimated cost of implementing the proposed charges are given in the report but can you give details of the expected increase in income?

A. David Morris will arrange for this to be provided to Councillor Smith.

ACTION: David Morris

Q. The Masterplan for Enfield which was published earlier this year with 100 pages of data. I understand one recommendation put forward from this was that we should look to reduce parking tariffs on multi storey car parks which might reduce demand for other car parks?

A. We have no control on the Palace Exchange car park and Palace Gardens which is council run has under occupancy.

Q. Do you take guidance from the Department for Transport?

A: The Department for Transport's Operational Guidance for Local Authorities explains on what you can use revenue from parking charges e.g. for highways. Surveys show that there is only under occupancy on the upper levels of Palace Gardens car park during the week. There are 13 car parks where we charge and Palace Gardens is the only car park that has under occupancy.

It was mentioned that under para 3.2 of the report it refers to one of the factors that should be considered when setting parking charges is 'If on-street charges are set too low, they could attract higher levels of traffic than are desirable' Which shows the need for a balance to be made.

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Councillor Dogan said the intention is to encourage people to stay longer for off street parking (The proposed 3 to 5 hour tariff for Outer Enfield car parks is £4:00 unchanged from the present charge).

Q. Can you confirm that the Genotin car park is extensively used at present? I ask this because a recent report mentioned that the Genotin car park was not used very often?

A. Yes it is well used

Q. Would it be possible to reduce prices for parking in some cases for example having the first half hour parking free?

A. Cars would need to be logged and this would increase contractor's costs.

Q. You stated that we compared favourably with other boroughs parking charges, how will we know what the impact would be of this and whether the aims have been achieved?

A: When we carry out surveys in future we will use the base line figure of the our findings from the survey in March.

Bilal Srhir (EYP) representative suggested that it would be useful to have exemptions for parking charges for workers who work in town centres and who need their vehicles.

David Morris confirmed that we do offer season tickets for our car parks on a monthly or annual basis. Dispensations are also available for a parking bay for a week. Brown badges are also available for the elderly.

Q. Are season tickets available for people wishing to use the Genotin Road car park? If Genotin road car park goes where would all these cars go?

A. Yes you can use season tickets at Genotin Road, season tickets are only available for long stay car parks and not for short stay ones and not for specific car parks.

The summing up by Councillor Laban referred to lower parking charges for Herts and Broxbourne, and said 2 hours on street parking charge for Waltham Cross is £1.60 compared to Enfield's proposed 2 hour on street charge of £4 for 2 hours. They are a competing borough and she was of the opinion that people would be more likely to go to Brookfield Farm to shop which was free of charge. She said she was not hearing enough about how we are improving/encouraging our local economy. The proposals do not fit in with plans for Genotin Road and the Masterplan. We need to be helping the local economy.

Councillor Dogan answered that the priority is a higher turnover of cars to encourage people to park for shorter times and then leave.

The Chair said he was mindful of the fact that parking charges had not been increased for seven years and also mindful of the increased cost in petrol, this may influence people to decide whether to use car parking and shop locally or not. The two year review would look at this further.

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Following the discussion, the Committee took a vote on whether the Portfolio decision of the Cabinet member should be agreed or whether it should be referred back to him.

Having considered the information provided, the committee agreed to confirm the original Portfolio decision:

2.1 to implement revised parking charges from August 2018 for the reasons given in the report.

Councillors Akpinar, Aramaz and Needs voted in favour of the decision. Councillors David-Sanders and Smith voted against.

AGREED

The original portfolio decision by the Cabinet member was agreed.

The Chair **CONFIRMED** the decision.

Councillor Susan Erbil re-joined the meeting at this point.

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DRAFT SAFEGUARDING ADULTS STRATEGY 2018-23

Bharat Ayer, (Safeguarding Adults Team Manager) introduced a report on the Enfield Safeguarding Adults Strategy 2018 – 23 which has been issued for consultation. He invited comments from OSC.

The following was highlighted:

- One of the Safeguarding Adults Board duties, as a requirement of the Care Act, is to publish a strategic plan for each financial year that sets out how it will meet its main objective and what Safeguarding Adult Board members will do to achieve this.
- The priorities have been developed by a project group including service users, carers and our Quality Checkers. They helped to ensure that the strategy, which was quite a technical area, had been set out in a clear and easily understandable way. It is in plain English and jargon has been removed. It also sets out the telephone numbers/ website address for people to use if someone is suspected of being abused on each page of the draft document.
- The aims of the Board are - to prevent abuse, protect adults at risk, to learn from experience and improve services.

The following questions/ comments were raised:

Q. I notice that the number of concerns reported had increased significantly with 1616 concerns reported for 2017/18 from 1144 the preceding year.

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A. Yes this means that people are reporting more incidents. This is welcomed because rather than having situations which are hidden, we are able to take steps to resolve any problems.

Q. How does the new Strategy document for the forthcoming five years differ from the previous one?

A. There has been more focus on community engagement. It has been led by service users which has made a big difference. There is also more connection with the use of social media and IT.

Councillor Smith complimented the service on the strategy document which he said was very clear for people to understand.

Q. As there had been a significant number of concerns raised but not an increase in budget, it was asked if they were still being dealt with adequately?

A. Sharon Burgess, Head of Safeguarding Adults confirmed that this is being done. Although there are budgetary constraints, we are looking at efficiency measures for example making the best use of data to ensure that the response we give is both person-centred and proportionate for what is needed and we try to ensure it is not too bureaucratic.

Sharon mentioned that the aim is to publicise the strategy, by reaching out to the community, especially for those in their own homes who may be socially isolated. Councillor Levy referred to a recent OSC work stream that had looked at the issue of loneliness and social isolation for those people who may not have the capacity to break away from their situation. There are a number of potential victims. There is a range of situations which may be considered abusive for example being the victim of rogue traders.

Councillor Needs praised the report, and she went on to ask:

Q. What happens when there is an issue that crosses over between the Police and the Local Authority? Whose remit would this come under?

A. We work closely with the police and other contacts and come together under 'MASH' the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub – where professionals work together and share information. Therefore if there is a crime we would ensure people have access to the criminal justice system and we lobby the Crown Prosecutor working nationally and locally.

Q. With reference to sex workers, how can we safeguard workers in cases of abuse?

A. Under 'safeguarding of adults' we would be looking to see if someone has care and support needs. In the case of sex workers this may not be the case. However the cases of modern day slavery is rising, and this issue is something we would be looking into in more detail.

This consultation is being led by service users. This has been included in Our Enfield magazine and emailed to Enfield residents and sub groups. Consultation and continuous engagement to build links with community groups is key.

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Q. How effective do you think the strategy has been? Is it working?

A. We believe prevention is most important and this is helped by reaching out to our communities who support each other. We have a five year plan which would be built on; our Quality Checkers are out in homes developing links as well as our usual links with partners.

There was a brief discussion following the earlier points made about sex workers and the need to target those who financially benefit from them. It was thought the increased powers of the police to be able to do this should be beneficial.

It was suggested that the consultation be shared with Enfield Youth Parliament. Susan O'Connell to liaise with officers and provide contact details so that this can be arranged.

Action: Susan O'Connell

Councillor Needs mentioned that she lived on the east side of the Borough and had not received copies of 'My Enfield' she thought it was important that information on the 'Safeguarding of Adults' is publicised as there are people who may be potential victims in the area. **Action: Bharat Ayer**

NOTED

Members noted the Draft Safeguarding Adults Strategy 2018-23 development and consultation.

Sharon Burgess, Bharat Ayer and their team were thanked for their work, also for recent training that had been provided.

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WORK PROGRAMME AND WORKSTREAMS 2018/19

Workstreams

It was agreed that the following three initial workstreams with the first two to commence and the third to follow in the future be established for 2018/19 –

- Children in Transition (Children Leaving Care)
- The High Street – focusing on empty shops
- Parks and Green Spaces –Are they being used to their full potential (Noted that the Review of Parks Strategy is to take place in November)

It was also noted that a future potential workstream was discussed on

- John Wilkes House issues and the Housing Allocations policy.

Work Programme

It was noted that there is an item relating to Children / Education Services included on each OSC Business meeting agenda.

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Cabinet members could be invited to future meetings for discussion of items of interest.

The next special meeting of OSC will take place on Thursday 26 July 2018 to hear from the Leader of the Council about her plans/ visions.

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE 2018

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on the 12 June 2018.

Members raised a further question on Genotin Road in addition to those detailed in the minutes of the 12 June 2018 that was relevant to the issues raised at this meeting. As follows:

“What will be the impact on businesses in Enfield given the number of empty shops should the Genotin Road car park close?”

It was agreed that this would be raised with officers for inclusion in the report going to Cabinet or covered verbally at the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 25 July 2018.

ACTION: Susan O’Connell, Scrutiny Officer

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DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

NOTED the dates as follows

Provisional Call-Ins

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

The business meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be held on:

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:

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Tuesday 15 January, 2019

Councillor Levy thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

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