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OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 30.7.2020

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 30 JULY 2020

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Councillors Susan Erbil, Achilleas Georgiou, Edward Smith, Lee David-Sanders, Hass Yusuf, Birsen Demirel, Elif Erbil and Margaret Greer (Vice Chair)

ABSENT

STATUTORY CO-OPTES: *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: Ian Davis, Chief Executive Officer, Claire Johnson, Head of Governance, Scrutiny and Registration Services, Andy Ellis, Governance and Scrutiny Officer.

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

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WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair, Councillor Susan Erbil welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received

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CABINET PRIORITIES FOR 2020/21

The Chair invited the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nesil Caliskan to out-line the Cabinet Priorities for the coming year.

The Leader emphasised that as we meet in the context of a global pandemic, Covid-19 must remain a focus in the Local Plan. The Leader also paid tribute to the many staff members in Enfield for their response to the current situation.

There remains a degree of instability as a result of unclear funding from Central Government, with a £40m loss in income and Council Tax.

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Commissioned in late 2019, The Council Plan contains 3 main themes:

Good Homes in Well Connected Neighbourhoods – In addition to more council/social housing, the existing stock will be redeveloped, for example, the Joyce and Snells scheme. Housing will be increased on sites such as Alma Road and Meridian Water. The Council will look to support this growth with grants from Central Government and The Mayor of London.

Safe, Healthy and Confident Communities – The Council will consider the youth offer, post covid-19, reviewing courses and activities available. With a growing, older population, The Council will plan for both independent living and care homes.

An Economy that Works for Everyone – Skills academies will be established, providing training to a high-level. Grants are available from the GLA to support town centres and the plans for Enfield Town will be rolled out. In tackling inequality, the Government will be lobbied for more resources and powers. Working in partnership with the NHS, the Council are pressing for a primary care facility on the North Middlesex Hospital site.

Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council provided additional information on council priorities.

The Climate Change Task Force has developed the Enfield Climate Action Plan 2020, and now a section on Climate Change considerations must be included in all council reports. All council buildings will have renewable energy within the coming year. The Enfield Chase Restoration Project will see 100,000 trees planted, off-setting carbon levels. 2 low traffic neighbourhood schemes are in place with another 12 being developed. The Council will consider how to change staff behaviours relating to travel. There will be a 47% reduction in energy consumption with the introduction of new street lighting. There will be 250 electric charging points in the borough by 2025. A film studio is being developed in Enfield, with the possibility of another 3 in the future. Young people will be encouraged to join the film industry as a career.

Ian Davis, Chief Executive Officer, provided information relating to Enfield on a regional and local basis. Enfield has been involved in work at a pan-London level and it is noted how well the staff from Enfield have responded to London needs in addition to the needs of Enfield. Enfield are part of the London Transition Management Group, working along-side the NHS and other public sector bodies to manage the on-going crisis and recovery plans. Our Outbreak Control Plan has been developed and is one of 5 in the North Central London Sector (with Haringey, Barnet, Islington and Camden).

Locally, the budget continues to be an issue, as with all boroughs currently. Further clarity from Central Government is required in order to address losses in income and council tax relief.

In planning for returning to the office or continued working from home, The Council's primary care is maintaining staff safety. The Building the Change

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Programme will lead on how our needs will be met. There are opportunities for savings, improving customer service and achieving a better work /life balance.

With the potential for a second wave of Covid-19, the Council are planning with colleagues at a national, regional and local level. The Council, in conjunction with the North Middlesex Hospital are looking at potential effects on the BAME community.

Economic recovery is being planned, particularly around town centres.

The Chair thanked Cllr Caliskan, Cllr Barnes and Ian Davis and acknowledged the amount of planning and work being undertaken, which will allow OSC to devise their work programme for the year.

Committee Members provided the following comments:

With the new structure for scrutiny now in place, each Panel must decide its own work programme and OSC must scrutinise the purpose of the Council priorities.

As a result of covid-19, staff are working at home and therefore virtual meetings are being held. This isn't satisfactory and there should be encouragement to return to face to face meetings and getting people back in the workplace which would in turn aid the economic recovery in town centres. The Leader of the Council reiterated that the safety of residents and staff will be a priority.

The work on developing a local film industry was praised.

There was a discussion relating to the provision of meat at Council events. It was clarified that only one menu had been altered and as 60% of greenhouse gasses are generated via meat production, Enfield residents would be encouraged to eat less meat.

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MERIDIAN WATER SCRUTINY WORKSTREAM 2019/20 - REPORT

Cllr Achilleas Georgiou, Chair of the Meridian Water Scrutiny Workstream, presented this item and confirmed that Cllr Susan Erbil had asked him to provide all members of OSC with a copy of the workstream report.

The Workstream was agreed by OSC last year. An initial site visit was undertaken and several scrutiny meetings with officers were held. Members of the Workstream spent a period of time considering the largest development project in Enfield, especially how it would affect the people of Edmonton.

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Meridian Water is a very ambitious project, with 10,000 new homes and 6,000 new jobs. However, the project's destiny is determined by Central Government and GLA funding, for example the Housing Infrastructure Fund. It is important to establish how the people of Enfield and in particular that part of Edmonton will benefit?

At a previous OSC meeting, it was agreed to ask the new Regeneration and Economic Development Panel (Chaired by Cllr Greer) to take this work forward.

The Regeneration Panel would be provided with a copy of the Meridian Water Scrutiny Report and at the meeting of OSC on 15th September, there will be an item on the agenda relating to how the recommendations from the report will be monitored.

ACTION: ANDY ELLIS

It was re-iterated that the tracking of recommendations must be undertaken.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

The Chair introduced this item and requested members to put forward suggestions for the coming year. It was acknowledged that some suggestions may be more appropriate on the work programme of any of the new scrutiny panels. OSC would need to consider more cross-cutting themes and areas not picked up by the individual scrutiny panels. The OSC meeting in December will be dedicated to the budget process.

The range of suggestions included the following:

- HR issues, staffing and sickness levels
- Procurement
- ICT and digital services – the customer experience
- Public Health – the covid-19 aftermath, budgets, care homes
- Complaints, MEQs and FOIs
- Building the Change, the Council's real estate
- Partnerships with businesses
- Updates from Panel Chairs
- Corporate Performance Dashboard
- Equality and Diversity
- Fly-tipping, especially in Eastern Enfield

The Chair stated that there may need to be a limit to the number of items considered at each meeting, in order to give suitable scrutiny to each topic. OSC can roll-over any items to next year if necessary and must be flexible in taking important, unplanned items, should they occur.

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A draft Work Programme will be circulated for initial comments and amendments and brought to the next meeting of OSC on 15 September. In addition, the draft work programmes from each of the other Scrutiny Panels will be on the agenda.

Cllr Greer requested that all hard copies of papers were to be sent to her home address.

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DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To note the dates of future meetings as follows:

Business Meetings

Tuesday 15th September 2020
Thursday 17th December 2020 (Budget Meeting)
Wednesday 17th February 2021
Thursday 1st April 2021

Provisional Call-in Meetings

Thursday 24th September 2020
Wednesday 21st October 2020
Wednesday 25th November 2020
Wednesday 13th January 2021
Thursday 4th February 2021
Wednesday 3rd March 2021
Thursday 25th March 2021
Tuesday 27th April 2021

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