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OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 15.9.2020

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2020

### COUNCILLORS

**PRESENT** (Chair) 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:** Sarah Cary, Executive Director Place, Peter George, Programme Director Meridian Water, Jeremy Chambers, Director of Law and Governance, Claire Johnston, Head of Governance, Scrutiny and Registration Services, Andy Ellis, Governance and Scrutiny Officer.

**Also Attending:** Councillor Nesil Caliskan (Leader of the Council)

**6**

### WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair, Cllr Susan Erbil welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**7**

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

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### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 AUGUST 2020

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, held on 11 August 2020 were agreed.

**9**

### ANNUAL SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMMES 2020-21 (TO FOLLOW)

The Chair introduced this item, noting that each work programme would be reviewed with Members of OSC providing comment as appropriate.

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 15.9.2020

i) It was agreed that rather than OSC consider fly-tipping, the Environment and Climate Action Scrutiny Panel would have this item.

ii) There will be an additional business meeting of OSC on 21 October to receive a petition relating to the Bowers Area Low Transport Network Scheme. This additional meeting will allow for an item to be considered relating to 'ICT and Digital Services - the Customer Experience.' It was noted that this item should be wide-ranging to include the customer experience of differing stakeholders (residents, business users), across various parts of the borough. In addition, how do we support the elderly in accessing digital systems?

iii) A discussion was held on the most accurate way to ensure reports contain the information required by OSC Members. It was agreed that Scrutiny Officers would assist OSC Members in devising a mini-scope for each item to be scrutinised.

iv) Cllr Greer noted and Members agreed, that it was important to maintain an independent, autonomous scrutiny process.

v) The role of representation from the Youth Parliament was discussed. It was noted that the planning session for the Children's, Young People and Education Scrutiny Panel had 3 representatives from the Youth Parliament in attendance, who gave a valuable insight to the issues concerning young people. It was agreed that youth participation in scrutiny should be encouraged.

vi) The Youth Parliament representatives requested an opportunity to shadow Councillors, especially in relation to Housing and Environment Services. Cllr Georgiou as Chair of the Children's, Young People and Education Scrutiny Panel had agreed to raise this with all Councillors and Claire Johnson agreed to co-ordinate with the Young Mayor and the Youth Parliament.

**ACTION** : Claire Johnson

vii) Cllr Elif Erbil, Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Panel agreed to a change in the order of items to the panel, as advised by Cllr Yusuf (Vice Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Panel).

viii) Cllr Smith as Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel provided a summary of the work programme for that panel. It was noted that there had to be a degree of flexibility in the agenda items for the March meeting as the situation relating to the pandemic is not possible to predict.

ix) In conjunction with the items on the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel, Cllr Demirel as Chair of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Panel, confirmed that the panel would have an item on how Covid-19 has impacted upon the Council's financial performance at their November meeting.

x) Cllr Yusuf as Chair of the Environment and Climate Action Scrutiny Panel confirmed that to allow detailed scrutiny, they would have a maximum of 2

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 15.9.2020

subjects at each meeting. However, to allow this, it was requested that this panel be permitted to arrange an additional meeting (in January or March) to scrutinise Home Insulation and School Streets.

xi) The Chair summarised the item and the Members of OSC agreed the 7 scrutiny work programmes for 2020/21.

### 10

#### **MERIDIAN WATER SCRUTINY WORKSTREAM REPORT**

i) The Monitoring Officer gave a brief over-view of the procedure relating to scrutiny workstream reports and confirmed that the Meridian Water report will be on the Cabinet agenda.

ii) Cllr Achilleas Georgiou, Lead Member of the Meridian Water Scrutiny Workstream introduced the report and thanked Workstream Members and Officers for their support throughout the scrutiny process.

iii) It was reiterated that the Workstream would like to see 10,000 homes and 6,000 jobs to be realised and the purpose of the report was to see how this would be achieved and how the people of Edmonton would benefit.

iv) It was confirmed that all the findings within the report were evidence based, with a reference point of 2018 onwards. The areas highlighted included; number and size of homes, parks and recreation land, building heights, overseas and private investors, buy to rent, public transport, number and type of jobs created.

v) The report concluded with 14 recommendations and suggestions for future work.

vi) The Leader of the Council and the Programme Director Meridian Water had responded to the initial report, with a letter and supporting appendices, challenging a number of assertions.

vii) Cllr Georgiou requested to table a response from Workstream Members to The Leader's letter, however, this was not accepted by the Chair as it did not meet the requirements of the rules of access to information, as it had not been listed on the agenda to be tabled.

viii) The Chair asked The Leader and Programme Director to respond to the findings and recommendations within the scrutiny workstream report.

The Leader noted that the Master Developer Role is a positive direction and allows Enfield Council to develop the site for the borough and specifically the people of Edmonton. As the Master Developer, it will be possible to control private investment and mass overseas sales. The first site within the development will achieve 50% affordable housing, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> site providing 100% affordable housing. 6,000 quality jobs will be created, with no less than 25% of these for local people.

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 15.9.2020

The meanwhile use of the site will provide a vibrant facility and employment opportunities. Density levels will be comparable with other zone 2/3 developments in London and all residents will only be a few minutes walk from good quality greenspace.

The Leader concluded by emphasising the important role of scrutiny and the need to use the evidence widely available.

ix) The Chair asked Cllr Georgiou how consistent the Workstream had been in their work and collating their findings. In response it was noted that the report provided a chronological order for evidence gathering.

x) At this point, due to technical issues, The Chair, Cllr Susan Erbil had to leave the meeting and Cllr Greer as Vice Chair assumed the role of Chair temporarily.

xi) A discussion relating to density comparisons with local wards and the proposals for Meridian Water indicated that the figures for Meridian Water gave a higher density, however, the Programme Director confirmed that this was comparable to other developments across London.

xii) It was agreed that a category noted within the Minority Groups paragraph would be altered.

xiii) Cllr Susan Erbil re-joined the meeting and resumed the Chair, thanking Cllr Greer.

xiv) Members of OSC agreed that the Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Panel would take this work forward, monitoring the implementation of the recommendations from the report.

xv) A comment was made that the report had clearly involved a lot of work and was very useful as an analysis of how, why and when. A concern was noted that affordable housing rates may not be within the reach of many households in Edmonton.

xvi) The Programme Director for Meridian Water responded to a number of points raised; The Council do not set property market values. Market value is set by housing partners, having regard for sale values in the local area. Affordable rented homes will be available for everyone in the Edmonton area, with private housing cross-subsidising affordable housing. Public transport links will be improved with the Department of Transport giving approval for 6 trains per hour, serving Meridian Water Station by 2023.

xvii) In relation to consultation, many councillors had attended briefing sessions but this had been impeded by the pandemic situation. More events were being planned, with constant, open dialogue with local people.

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 15.9.2020

xviii) Cllr Greer, as Chair of the Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Panel, noted that the work programme for the panel would identify a suitable date to have this item on the agenda. Cllr Greer also commented that the Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Panel would move the topic forward for the benefit of local residents.

xix) In summary, Cllr Georgiou agreed with Cllr Greer and stated that the report recognised the achievements to date but had highlighted areas of concern, following a fully evidenced, deep-dive as recommended by the Centre for Public Scrutiny in their report relating to scrutiny in Enfield.

xx) The Chair, thanked Cllr Georgiou and the Workstream Members for the report and noting its passage through OSC, passed the item to the Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Panel for further monitoring. Any further questions would be emailed to Cllr Georgiou or Cllr Greer as appropriate. The Chair thanked The leader and Programme Director for attending.

## 11

### **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The dates of future meetings were noted as follows:

#### Business Meetings

Wednesday 21 October 2020  
Thursday 17 December 2020 (Budget Meeting)  
Wednesday 17 February 2021  
Thursday 1 April 2021

#### Provisional Call-in Meetings

Wednesday 25 November 2020  
Wednesday 13 January 2021  
Thursday 4 February 2021  
Wednesday 3 March 2021  
Thursday 25 March 2021  
Tuesday 27 April 2021

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