



Partnership and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 7 February 2013 at 7.30 pm

Committee Room 4, Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane,
Wembley, HA9 9HD

Membership:

Members

Councillors:

Van Kalwala (Chair)
Clues (Vice-Chair)
Green
Harrison
Naheerathan
HB Patel
RS Patel
Krupa Sheth

first alternates

Councillors:

Ogunro
Matthews
Lorber
Oladapo
Al-Ebadi
Colwill
Chohan
Aden

second alternates

Councillors:

Daly
Hopkins
Leaman
Ketan Sheth
Pavey
Kansagra
S Choudhary
Denselow

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For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit:

www.brent.gov.uk/committees

The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting

Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

Item **Page**

1 Declarations of interests

Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, any relevant financial or other interest in the items on the agenda.

2 Deputations

3 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 December 2012

The minutes are attached.

4 Matters arising

5 Brent Police, borough update

Matthew Gardner Brent Police Borough Commander will provide a presentation and overview of policing priorities in Brent, focusing on such issues as:

- Current Restructuring Plans & Police Numbers
- Domestic Violence
- Personal Robberies
- Youth Crime
- Gangs
- The Mayors Policing Plans
- Funding Formulas & Budget

6 Partnership and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme 1 - 4

This report sets out some options for the Partnership and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme.

7 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Partnership and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting is scheduled to take place on 21 March 2013.

8 Any other urgent business

Notice of items raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Democratic Services Manager or his representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 64.



- Please remember to **SWITCH OFF** your mobile phone during the meeting.
- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public.
 - Toilets are available on the second floor.
 - Catering facilities can be found on the first floor near the Paul Daisley Hall.
 - A public telephone is located in the foyer on the ground floor, opposite the Porters' Lodge

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**MINUTES OF THE PARTNERSHIP AND PLACE
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Thursday 6 December 2012 at 7.30 pm**

PRESENT: Councillor Van Kalwala (Chair), Councillor Clues (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Harrison, Naheerathan, HB Patel and RS Patel

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors Green and Krupa Sheth

1. Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 October 2012

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the last meeting held on 17 October 2012 be agreed as an accurate record subject to Councillor Naheerathan being shown as having given apologies for absence.

3. Matters arising

Crime updates

Kisi Smith Charlemagne, Performance Officer advised members that she would circulate the supplementary report on crime updates to the next meeting in February 2013.

4. Deputations

None.

5. Employment programme update

Members received a report which provided an update on the current labour market position in Brent and set out the challenges faced by the Council in relation to rising unemployment and deprivation that were likely to worsen with the introduction of welfare reforms. Andy Donald, Director of Regeneration and Major Projects outlined the context, the extent of deprivation and the responses put in place to tackle those growing problems.

Members heard that a team of 6 navigators had been recruited to start work in January 2013 in close co-operation with housing teams. Their remit was to engage the most excluded individuals and families who were likely to be hardest hit by the benefits cap in April 2013, offer support to them to mitigate the impact. The Director added that the navigators would carry a caseload of about 2,604

households drawn from a group of residents most at risk of homelessness/displacement. The success of the project would be measured by the number of families enabled to stay in their homes, through employment and effectiveness with other services.

He continued that a welfare reform group had been set up that met regularly to consider how best to reach and offer assistance to those who were likely to face shortfalls in benefits. Teams were working very closely with partners at Jobcentre Plus and the Work Programme to agree a process that would better connect the Council's services to direct support and prevent homelessness. This may involve co-locating employment staff within Housing to provide direct support and a robust performance monitoring process to ensure all partners delivered the right services to the client group. Navigators would also be a key part of this process and the "Working with Families" project.

The Director also informed members that a number of steps were being taken to address the gap between training and employment and with that in mind, the curriculum, structure and delivery of BACES would be reviewed to ensure a fundamental shift in emphasis to vocational objectives. A feasibility/scoping study was also being commissioned into the set up of three vocational training centres. These would be along the lines of Intermediate Labour Markets and would be aligned as closely as possible with major regeneration projects.

Members noted that a bidding framework and brief was being set up to identify a group of voluntary sector providers that would be able to support employment provision in the borough. It was envisaged that experienced providers would be paid on a results basis to support voluntary referrals. Furthermore, the group would investigate ways that small teams of local people could be recruited and trained by the voluntary sector to raise awareness of the benefit changes in local Jobcentre Plus offices and other community meeting points.

Brent in2work had continued to deliver advice and guidance to local residents seeking employment and training opportunities from the Wembley Works office. Over 100 local unemployed residents had found work through Brent in2work since April 2012 which included 59 jobs with the new Hilton Hotel. This was as a result of a successful collaborative working of Brent in2work, Job Centre Plus (JCP), College of North West London (CNWL) and Wembley City.

Work was also continuing with construction contractors such as Skanska and Wilmot Dixon to ensure that training, apprenticeships and employment aspects of S106 agreements were adhered to. Partnership working with Denne contractors continued to create positive outcomes for the local residents in South Kilburn, with further work being developed with Catalyst Housing as Phase 2 of the regeneration project progressed.

In welcoming the report, members enquired from the Director as to how the caseload for the navigation team would be selected, what actions were being taken to encourage small businesses and the possibility of using Section 106 agreements to support people into employment. He was also asked to clarify the review of BACES in the vocational training centres.

The Director responded that the employment team working in close partnership with officers from housing department would focus on residents who could be vulnerable to the benefit changes, unemployment and homelessness. He added that through employer partnership with Park Royal Partnership, the Council would signpost small businesses to organisation that could offer assistance to those businesses. In respect of section 106 agreements, he stated that it was within the Council's remit to use those agreements to support people into work, citing as an example the agreement with Quintains to notify Brent first of the availability of employment in its construction developments in Wembley.

Members also heard that a team would be set up to oversee the review of BACES, looking into the current success rate from recruitment to employment and how they could engage with the business community to identify which areas of work were expected to grow in employment terms and match them with the skills of those working for BACES. The Director continued that the review was expected to be completed by the end of the financial year. He undertook to report the performance of the Council's initiatives to the Committee in April 2013.

RESOLVED:

that the progress report on employment programme be noted.

6. **Domestic violence**

The Committee received a report which looked at the process, terms of reference and limitations of Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews. The report also gave an insight into the lessons learnt from the first two inquiries to be held in Brent. Genny Renard, Head of Integrated Community Safety presented the report.

She started by setting out the purpose of a domestic homicide review which was to consider the circumstances that led to the death and identify where responses to the situation could be improved and lessons learnt in the future. She informed members about the current domestic homicide review in Brent and the legislative framework which established the requirement on Local Authorities to conduct such reviews. Members heard about fatalities that had occurred in Brent and for which two homicide review reports had been produced for the Home Office. She continued that work was still continuing on the third case which related to interfamily fatality.

In explaining the review process, she informed members that a review panel, led by an independent chair comprised of a panel made up of members of local statutory and voluntary agencies. The review panel had the chance to hear from family, friends and work colleagues as well as reviewed each agency's review of their involvement in a case.

She clarified that domestic homicide reviews were not inquiries into how someone died or who was to blame; they were not part of any disciplinary process. They were additional to an inquest or any other form of inquiry into the homicide.

Funding regime

Whilst domestic homicide review was a statutory requirement there were no additional funds attached to this work. In Brent the part time officer had been financed through additional funds gained from the European Daphne fund, which would not be available in the next financial year. The Integrated Community Safety Team would, through job realignment and some restructuring, seek to incorporate this additional work within the current staff budget.

Members were advised that as Brent had successfully completed three such reviews the Home Office were funding a programme here so Brent can develop the national guidelines. The first step would be to host a day in December 2012 at which all councils and Police services who had overseen Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews would come together to share experiences, tips, knowledge and highlight pitfalls. From the information gained, a "How To" pack would be developed.

RESOLVED:

that the report on domestic violence be noted.

7. **London Fire Brigade in Brent**

Commander Terry Harrington, Borough Commander London Fire Brigade (LFB), made a presentation to the committee on "Fire Service Delivery, The Way Ahead". Commander Harrington informed members that for the financial years 2013/15, the LFB was expected to make efficiency savings of around £65m, although the final would not be known until January 2013. He continued that when the grant settlement was finalised all options including staffing costs and appliances would be considered and subject to extensive consultations, any changes would be made around June 2013. He drew attention to the current resources in Brent (Park Royal, Willesden and Wembley fire stations) and added that none of the stations would be closed as a result of the review, although it was not conclusive at this stage.

In explaining how the expected budget savings would be achieved, the Borough Commander stated that an extensive modelling work would be carried out to identify options for a thorough review of fires, mobilisation patterns, station locations and station resources. He affirmed that strategic fire stations such as Wembley fire station would not be affected by any closure plans however if any station was to close, the LFB would still be able to meet its target response targets. Members heard that Brent's operational readiness was outstanding and that there was always a drive to improve attendance times, factors which would mitigate the likelihood of station closure in the borough. He then outlined some of the community fire safety initiatives.

Commander Harrington informed members that as part of its adult safeguarding initiative, the LFB was engaged with other agencies to assess risks of fire and to install smoke alarms. He continued that LFB was reviewing its rough sleeping strategy as it was known that rough sleeping could lead to fires. In addition, visual audits were carried out to identify derelict buildings and security measures taken including preventing unauthorised temporary uses as habitable accommodation. Where the inhabitants were suspected to be illegal immigrants, the involvement of the UK Border Agency was sought. He added that the benefits of sprinkler systems

in effectively dealing with fires in high risk areas could not be over-emphasised. Commander Harrington added that the LFB youth engagement initiative involved provision of information to key stage 1 and 2 pupils, junior citizens with the police and LIFE project.

In welcoming the presentation members expressed a view that the sprinkler seminar organised by the LFB as part of its safety initiative was well received. The Chair enquired about key issues which the LFB had with the Council. The Borough Commander stated that the LFB was engaged in partnership working and shared a common goal in ensuring a safe community.

RESOLVED:

that the presentation on London Fire Brigade in Brent be noted.

8. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 7 February 2013.

9. **Any other urgent business**

None.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Z VAN KALWALA
Chair

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**Partnership & Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2012/13
Chair Cllr Van Kalwala**

Date of Meeting	Agenda item	Requested Information / Evidence	Invited witnesses	Notes
14th June 2012	Ward Working Annual Report	A report that details the work of the Ward Working Team in 2011/12	Christine Collins Cllr Jones Lead member and Member of the Member reference group	
	Partners for Brent Executive Progress report Q4	A report that sets out progress on delivering the work programme of Partners for Brent	Jo McCormick Partnership Co-ordinator	
	Work Programme	A report that sets out a series of options for the committees work programme	Jacqueline Casson Acting Corporate Policy Manager	
25th July 2012	Crime Update	A report that sets out crime performance information and key issues	Genny Renard Head of Integrated Offender Management	
	Integrated Offender Management	A presentation on the key aspects of the policy		
	Changing the delivery of crime reduction - LJAGS	A report on the introduction and operation of Local Joint Action Groups	Genny Renard Head of Integrated Offender Management	

<p>17th October 2012</p>	<p>Brent Data – The multiagency data hub with the latest from the census</p> <p>Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) Brent Progress Report - Update</p> <p>The Voluntary Sector in Brent</p>	<p>A presentation on the most current statistical information coming out of the census</p> <p>Development of a Council for Voluntary Service in Brent - progress on delivering their business plans.</p> <p>Setting out the Key aspects of the voluntary community and not for profit sector in Brent</p>	<p>Cathy Tyson Assistant Director of Policy</p> <p>Jo McCormick Partnership Co-ordinator</p> <p>Tessa Awe Chief Executive CVS Brent</p> <p>Jo McCormick Partnership Co-ordinator</p> <p>Tessa Awe Chief Executive CVS Brent</p>	
<p>6th December 2012</p>	<p>Employment in Brent</p> <p>Domestic Violence Investigations and White Ribbon Campaign</p> <p>Brent Fire Borough Commander</p>	<p>Update on the state of employment in Brent</p> <p>Report detailing the results of the Domestic Violence investigations carried out in Brent</p> <p>Service Reductions, Community Safety and Operational - Quality, Readiness and Contingency Planning</p>	<p>Andy Donald Director of Regeneration & Major Projects</p> <p>Genny Renard Head of Integrated Offender Management</p> <p>Terry Harrington Brent Borough Commander</p>	

7th February 2013	Brent Police Borough Commander	Policing issues within Brent	Matthew Gardner Brent Borough Commander	
21st March 2013	Registered Social Landlord Performance	A overview on the Performance of social Landlords within Brent	Tony Hirsch Head of Housing Policy & Performance	
	BHP – Performance Update	Overview of BHP Performances	David Bishop Performance Manager	
	Brent Data – The multiagency data hub	Progress update	Cathy Tyson Assistant Director of Policy	
May 2013	Employment Enterprise Update	Update on the how the employment enterprise programme is performing	Andy Donald Director of Regeneration & Major Projects & Head of Employment Enterprise Programme	
	Brent Fire Borough Commander	Update on budget, options and changes to Brent Fire Services in 2013	Terry Harrington Brent Borough Commander	
	Crime Performance Information - Update	Update - crime performance information and key issues	TBC Head of Integrated Offender Management	

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Other issues the committee would like to cover date to be confirmed:

- ***Employment in Brent***
- ***Policing in Brent – the Borough Commander will be invited to discuss policing issues in Brent***
- ***Registered Social Landlord performance***
- ***Council for Voluntary Services – update***
- ***Crime Performance Information – regular updates***
- ***Partners for Brent – updates on the delivery of their work programme***
- ***Update multi agency data hub (census)***
- ***Fire Commander – Service performance and reductions in services***
- ***Employment Enterprise update***
- ***Community Right to Bid - Summary and work to date***