



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 23 March 2010 at 7.30 pm

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

Membership:

Members

Councillors:

Jones (Chair)
Castle (Vice-Chair)
Clues
HB Patel
Leaman
Mistry
Thomas

first alternates

Councillors:

Beswick
Dunn
Bessong
Eniola
Motley
Kansagra
John

Second alternates

Councillors:

Crane
Green
Hirani
HM Patel
Anwar
Mrs Fernandes
Ahmed

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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 Personal and Prejudicial Interests	
Members are invited to declare any relevant financial or other interest in the items on this agenda.	
2 Deputations (if any)	
3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 9 February 2010	1 - 12
The minutes are attached.	
4 Matters Arising (if any)	
5 Appointments to Sub-Committees (if any)	
None.	
6 Update Report on Day Opportunities for People Attending In-House Learning Disabilities Day Centres in Brent	13 - 16
This report provides an update on the progress in respect of an aspect of the Adult Social Care Transformation programme-the modernising of day opportunities for people with learning disabilities. It summarises the findings of assessed needs of learning disabilities day care service users. The policy for implementing personalisation through the self directed support model is discussed within the context of providing choice and control for users. This includes the provision of personal budgets and/or direct payments and giving users a choice on how their budget allocation is spent. The report provides an update on the proposal to re-provide services at Albert Road Day Centre on the John Bilham site in Preston.	
7 Crime and Disorder Follow Up - Community Payback and Section 60 Authorisations in Brent Borough	17 - 20
This briefing is reporting back on two key areas of interest Community Payback and Section 60 Authorisations in Brent Borough.	

8 Gating of Alleyways

21 - 24

Alleyways tend to be secluded areas, the majority of which are either in private ownership or the collective responsibility of those abutting / adjoining the alley. They are rarely the responsibility of Brent Council. Their seclusion leads them to be vulnerable to environmental crime and anti-social behaviour, British Crime Statistics indicated that a half of burgled properties are entered from the rear, which will include those attached to alleyways. Gating of the alleyways makes it more difficult for fly-tippers, reduces the opportunity for anti-social behaviour and acts as a deterrent to burglaries from the rear.

9 Town Centre Regeneration Task Group Follow Up

To follow.

10 Transitions Services Task Group Report

To follow.

11 Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

25 - 38

This document, for the Committee's information, sets out the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.

12 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be confirmed at the May meeting of the Council.

13 Any Other Urgent Business

Notice of items to be 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 No 64.



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LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 9 February 2010 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Jones (Chair), Councillor Castle (Vice Chair) and Councillors Clues and Thomas

Also Present: Councillors Dunwell, John and Powney and Sneddon (Lead Member for Human Resources and Diversity and Local Democracy and Consultation)

Apologies were received from: Councillors Mistry

1. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

None declared.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 8 December 2009**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2009 be received and approved as an accurate record.

3. **Matters Arising (if any)**

Cricklewood Library Children's Centre Project and Archive Move

Jonathan Treherne (Legal Services) read out a statement updating the Committee on the situation concerning Cricklewood Library. It was noted that All Souls College were to receive a detailed legal explanation of the Council's view with the intention of seeking an agreement to the Council's proposals. The statement confirmed that the Council did not think that the building should revert to the ownership of All Souls College if a Children's Centre was provided at the site with the library.

Councillor Castle sought clarification as to whether this issue could be discussed at Area Consultative Forum meetings. In response, Jonathan Treherne agreed that Legal Services would provide written advice to Councillor Castle on this matter.

Climate Change Final Task Group Report

The Chair advised that the additional recommendation to the task group report agreed at the last meeting of this Committee, that environmental implications sections be included on all formal reports where relevant, was to be included in the task group's report when it was reported to the Executive in March 2010.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – Town Centre Regeneration Task Group

The Chair advised that answers to questions concerning the Town Centre Regeneration Task Group were awaited.

4. Appointments to Sub-Committees (if any)

None.

5. Joint Commissioning Registered Social Landlord Performance

Tony Hirsch (Head of Policy and Performance – Strategy and Regeneration, Housing and Community Care) introduced the report which provided details of performance across a whole range of housing issues. He advised that it was difficult to make direct comparisons between performances of the Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) because of differences in methodology in the way performance data was collated. Tony Hirsch confirmed that the quality and quantity of information provided by partners had improved since the first report on this item and overall there had been an encouraging improvement in performance. Members noted that the Tenant Services Authority would become the regulator for all social housing providers on 1 April 2010. A key element of this change would be the creation of a set of new standards, whilst local standards were also to be agreed in consultation with tenants and the local authority. Local authorities were also required to provide annual reports to tenants each July.

Members agreed to Councillor Dunwell addressing the Committee. Councillor Dunwell enquired what tools were used to ensure that best value was being provided and how was this undertaken. He commented that there had been contrasting opinions between the RSLs, residents and the Safer Neighbourhood Team with regard to the extent of anti-social behaviour in Queensbury ward and he sought further explanation for this.

During discussion, Councillor Castle, in noting that each organisation provided its own performance information, enquired whether there had been attempts to cross reference the information with residents or tenants' associations and whether the Council liaised directly with them. He commented that a key priority of Brent Housing Partnership (BHP) was fire safety and he sought observations with regard to the importance of health and safety issues with other RSLs. Councillor Castle also spoke of the need to co-ordinate the length of leases, particularly for those involving families, as he had been made aware of situations where landlords had confirmed with RSLs that a lease was about to expire and tenants were subsequently given short notice to leave or had been issued eviction notices.

Councillor Thomas sought views on whether the right questions had been asked to obtain the performance information and queried why the issue of overcrowding had not been mentioned in the report. He noted that Fortunegate Community Housing Group were lagging in a number of areas, whilst there were also no figures available for tenant satisfaction and he sought an explanation for this. Councillor Thomas emphasised the importance of empowering tenants and suggested that all RSLs hold a conference inviting all tenants, as had been arranged a few years previously. Comments were also sought with regard to the effectiveness of Locata in finding tenants suitable housing and the extent of falling housing stock as a result of the recession.

Councillor Clues asked how the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) energy ratings compared with previous figures and what could be done to improve ratings. He also enquired if some housing associations had greater difficulty in achieving higher SAP ratings.

The Chair enquired if the type of questions used to form the performance framework under the Tenants Service Authority coming into effect from April 2010 would differ significantly from the present ones. She sought reasons for Fortunegate Community Housing Group's decline in performance in emergency repairs and what steps were in place to reverse this. Reasons why some RSLs had no reported incidences of anti-social behaviour was sought and also an explanation as to why Metropolitan Housing Trust had a relatively high number of such incidences in view of their small housing stock. Concern was expressed about a number of RSLs missing their re-letting of vacant properties targets and reasons were sought for this, including whether it could be partly attributable to Locata processing times taking longer. The Chair enquired what checks were undertaken on temporary accommodation, commenting that the quality level for such properties was sometimes low. Views on what the approximate proportion of housing were street properties was also sought.

Joe Chambers (Chief Executive, Fortunegate Community Housing Group) was invited to respond to some of the issues raised. He stated that although there was no specific explanation as why emergency repairs performance for Fortunegate Community Housing Group had dropped, that the repairs were carried out at a time the residents had requested in order to provide greater customer satisfaction. This may mean that in some cases the emergency repair had not been carried out within target times, however still at a time most convenient to the tenant. Members heard that a Fortunegate Community Housing Group priority was to ensure the repair was carried out the first time the property was visited. Joe Chambers added that under the new Tenant Services Authority regime starting on April 2010, there would be an increased focus on fulfilling the needs and preferences of tenants. The Committee noted that Fortunegate Community Housing Group had recently reviewed its re-letting policy and that there were only a small number of voids currently in its housing stock, whilst there were no street properties in its current housing stock. Joe Chambers advised that all RSLs were undertaking capital programme works and for some this would include work around energy consumption. Older stock would be required to meet modern housing eco standards and this was a more significant issue for RSLs with a greater proportion of older housing. Joe Chambers confirmed that all Fortunegate Housing Community Group properties had been risk-assessed and that staff

carried out daily inspections as part of their work schedule. Work programmes were set up on the basis of the findings of these inspections.

Chinyere Ugwu (Chief Executive, Hillside Housing Group) acknowledged that re-letting times could be quite high and this was partly attributable to the fact that re-letting would not be undertaken until the decanting process had been finalised. She confirmed that there were regular fire assessments and that staff received the appropriate training to undertake this.

Jeffrey Jansen (Policy and Information Manager – Strategy and Regeneration, Housing and Community Care) confirmed that each RSL compiled and verified their own performance figures, however if there appeared to be significant anomalies in these, RSLs would be asked to re-check. He advised Members that there was no remit for the Council to be able to cross-reference the figures provided and the Council did not presently liaise directly with tenants or residents associations. It was difficult to comment on why some RSLs had no recorded incidences of anti-social behaviour as they had compiled the figures.

Tony Hirsch advised that the focus on tenants' priorities under the new framework of the Tenants Service Authority would look at issues such as communication with tenants and residents' associations which was likely to be encouraged, however consultation was ongoing and the set of questions used to assess performance were yet to be drawn up. It was hoped that the Council would be able to test the information provided by RSLs. Members noted that the Council had records of all housing stock managed by the RSLs and in the case of street properties, these tended to be older and more likely to have defects such as excessive moisture. Tony Hirsch acknowledged that the state of temporary properties was sometimes cause for concern and he advised that any concerns about individual properties could be reported to the Council on Health and Safety grounds. It was noted that a number of other councils in London were similarly affected by this problem.

Maggie Rafalowicz (Assistant Director – Housing and Regeneration, Housing and Community Care) advised that the standards with regard to repairs were agreed on a West London basis about two years ago. Members heard that there was no information to suggest that any of the RSLs in Brent were in financial difficulties, however the present economic climate had reduced the number of new housing developments. In addition, the uncertainty of funding pending the General Election was a reason for RSLs to be cautious, however there were still some new developments being undertaken in Brent. Members were informed that a tour by coach of RSL sites in Brent could be arranged for them if they wished.

Members agreed to the Chair's request that a report providing a summary update of performance be provided during the summer of 2010 and that it include information on street properties.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the report on Performance Information on Joint Commissioning Registered Social Landlords be noted; and
- (ii) that a summary update be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a meeting in the summer of 2010.

6. One Stop Service Redesign Project Update

Graham Ellis (Director of Business Transformation) introduced the report which considered how the One Stop Service would be provided in the long term. Graham Ellis explained that the One Stop Service Redesign Project had initially been part of the Customer Contact Transformation Programme, however this project was now part of the Reshaping Customer Contact Gold Project which included a comprehensive approach to improving all areas of customer service. Members heard that of the £479,00 identified for efficiency savings by 2011, £300,000 savings had already been achieved and the remaining £179,000 planned for achievement in 2010/11 was on schedule.

During discussion, Councillor Thomas acknowledged the need for changes to the One Stop Service, however he commented that he was not surprised that a proportion of customers wanted the Harlesden One Stop Service to remain open in its existing format. He suggested that the proposed sign posting to the relevant services might not always be understood by customers and he felt the underlying aim of a number of initiatives was to achieve savings. He felt that a number of difficulties needed to be overcome and he asked how the impact of the changes would be monitored. Councillor Thomas also suggested that a review of the changes be reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Clues enquired what assurances could be given to meet the needs of vulnerable people who were more difficult to reach.

The Chair also enquired how the wishes of those customers responding with regard to the Harlesden One Stop Service be addressed. The Chair sought views with regard to possible redundancies and what training would be undertaken.

In response, Graham Ellis emphasised the need to reduce face to face customer contact and make greater use of other forms of communication. Members noted that there was presently a greater proportion of face to face customer contact in the south part of the Borough despite there being less provision of this type of customer contact there. Members heard that different measures were being considered in different areas and Graham Ellis acknowledged that in some cases face to face contact was more appropriate. He advised that achieving savings was an important objective of the project, however he felt that services could also be improved. These objectives could both be achieved by cutting unnecessary customer contact and he cited changes that had recently been made to Revenues and Benefits which had resulted in improved efficiency and customer service by looking at processes and reducing the number of times a customer needed to contact the service. With regard to redundancies, Graham Ellis acknowledged that there may be some as a result of the review, however these would be minimised by measures such as not replacing positions made vacant that had been occupied by agency staff. Relevant training programmes were already in place for staff with regard to changes and an emphasis would be placed in ensuring that each process worked from beginning to end. Members noted that proposals were in the process of being considered prior to a report being put to the Executive.

Members agreed that a future report providing a review of the changes be put before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in approximately nine months time

and that it include details of how the service was provided to vulnerable people and how the service was performing in the south of the Borough.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the report on One Stop Service Redesign Project Update be noted; and
- (ii) that a report of a review of the changes be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in approximately nine months time and that it include information on how the service is provided to vulnerable people and how the service is performing in the south of the Borough.

7. Neighbourhood Working January 2009 - January 2010

Councillor Sneddon (Lead Member for Human Resources and Diversity and Local Democracy and Consultation) introduced the report and explained that there had been a broadening in scope and number of Neighbourhood Working projects since the last report to the Committee. There were also more examples of partnership working and some partnerships were still being developed.

Christine Collins (Neighbourhood Working Manager, Policy and Regeneration) then went into some detail concerning certain aspects of the report. Beginning with communications, she explained that there had been a number of activities to increase engagement, including:-

- Regular schedule of walkabouts with Members with a more targeted approach to ensure that contact was made with a larger number of people
- Increased contact in schools to improve engagement with young people who were usually under-represented in consultation responses
- Increased number of partnership days and events
- Neighbourhood Working Team participation at festivals and events over summer and also at Eid and Diwali celebrations to increase engagement with Asian communities who had been under-represented in consultation responses
- Team attendance at community groups and Tenants and Residents' Associations meetings
- Working closely with the Consultation Team to develop ways to make Area Consultative Forums (ACFs) more interactive and representative, including the piloting of a ward-based approach at the November 2009 meeting of the Wembley ACF where for part of the meeting it was split into small ward groups, each chaired by a ward member
- Continuation of Neighbourhood Bulletins
- Since April 2009, a quarterly update provided for internal colleagues

Christine Collins then outlined some of the challenges facing Neighbourhood Working. Members heard that each Neighbourhood Working Co-ordinator was working in five wards since April 2009, meaning there was less time for each ward and therefore less time for project development. The Team were considering ways to encourage service area colleagues to take more responsibility for project development and management. Christine Collins advised that although Members and officers might have certain issues they wanted addressed through Neighbourhood Working, in some instances these would not necessarily fall within

its scope. For example, they may not meet the priorities set by ward members or it was more appropriate that they be met by another budget. Christine Collins stressed that although it was important that Neighbourhood Working was member led, it needed to operate within a robust legal and procedural framework. Although the success of individual projects could be measured, it was not yet possible to identify major long term improvements to the way services were delivered through Neighbourhood Working and this would be measured through service reviews. Christine Collins also advised of the need to consider different ways of working in 2010/11 in light of delay to when funds would be allocated because of the Elections. It was suggested that members could be assisted by choosing from a shopping list of costed projects based on identified resident priorities. However, Members would still have the opportunity to include their own ideas and a problem-solving approach to individual issues would continue.

With the agreement of the Chair, Councillor Dunwell addressed the Committee. He commented that the splitting of ACFs into small ward groups had also been tried at a meeting of the Kingsbury and Kenton ACF some time ago. He stressed that Neighbourhood Working should continue to be member led.

During discussion, Councillor Clues also emphasised the need for Neighbourhood Working to continue to be member driven. Councillor Thomas commented that members should be proactive in their role and he felt that the shopping list suggestion could detract from this. He suggested that there be an annual report of Neighbourhood Working sent to all councillors and that it include a breakdown of spending for each ward. He felt that where wards were represented by councillors from more than one political group, more careful consideration was needed with regard to Neighbourhood Working activities.

The Chair suggested that projects identified for a ward that were yet to be undertaken could be considered for 2010/11. She sought clarification with regard to a Neighbourhood Working annual report as suggested by Councillor Thomas. The Chair also enquired if the Wembley ACF splitting the meeting by wards arrangement would be tried at other ACF meetings.

In reply, Councillor Sneddon agreed that it was important that Neighbourhood Working was member led and he stated that there were a number of other ways as well as the shopping list suggestion that were being considered.

Christine Collins advised that the shopping list idea had been suggested to help members decide on priorities and was also useful as it included costings. In addition, in some wards members sometimes sought inspiration for ideas and asked for details of projects in other wards. Members heard that the Wembley ACF splitting of the meeting by wards arrangement would be considered for other ACF meetings. Christine Collins confirmed that an annual report on Neighbourhood Working could be distributed to all councillors in June of each year and she stated that an update on budget spending could be provided for information at the March meeting of the Committee and this was agreed by Members.

Cathy Tyson added that because of the rolling programme nature of Neighbourhood Working, it would be difficult to provide a comparison of spending by ward. She advised the Committee that the shopping list suggestion was not put

forward as a primary way of working and that it could be used at a later stage if there was difficulty in deciding on projects or if there were funds remaining in a budget before the end of a financial year.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the report on Neighbourhood Working January 2009 – January 2010 be noted; and
- (ii) that an update on budget spending on Neighbourhood Working be circulated to Members.

8. Services for Women In and Exiting Prostitution

Councillor John, Chair of the Services for Women In and Exiting Prostitution Task Group introduced the report. She began by explaining that the task group had been set up following the publication of Eaves POPPY Project's Big Brothel – A survey of the off-street sex industry in London. The task group had covered many issues and because of the complexities involved, it had been working for over a year. Although the police did not regard prostitution as a high priority issue, many women who engaged in prostitution faced very difficult situations and this could involve coercion, drugs and alcohol dependency, trafficking and internet grooming. Members heard that overall, the vast majority of women had not gone into prostitution as a lifestyle choice. Councillor John informed Members that the task group had been in contact and visited a number of organisations, including Safe Exit, the Eaves POPPY Project, the Metropolitan Police Clubs and Vice, the Suffolk Constabulary, Make a Change Ipswich, Archant London and the Council's Environmental Health.

Councillor John continued that the possible use of Wembley Stadium during the 2012 Olympics would mean a likely increase in prostitution activities in the local area and also an increase in organised crime, including trafficking. She then circulated to Members copies of sex industry advertisements that had appeared in a local Brent newspaper. One of the recommendations from the task group had included that Brent local newspapers be encouraged not to include any pictures or any reference to age or ethnicity in advertisements relating to the sex industry and that Brent local newspapers agree to carry a prevention and deterrent advertisement next to sex industry advertisements. Another issue that needed to be addressed was demand and more research as to why men chose to visit prostitutes. More research into the extent of prostitution in Brent was also required and Councillor John circulated a map of known brothels in Brent. Councillor John commented that those police who the task group had worked with had made significant contributions and that the work was supported by Mark Toland, the Borough Commander and the Eaves POPPY Project. She asked that the Council continue working with its partners to pursue this issue and Members were also encouraged to support continuation of this work. Councillor John then drew Members' attention to the task group's recommendations as set out in the report.

Members agreed to a request from Councillor Dunwell to address the Committee. He suggested that a page be placed in Brent Magazine providing information and useful contact numbers to those wishing to escape prostitution.

During discussion, Councillor Thomas suggested that the work of the task group be referred to Brent's Local Strategic Partners (LSP). He commented that a possible stumbling block to one of the task group's aims was that some local newspapers received a significant proportion of income from sex industry advertisements. He also enquired if all London boroughs involved in the 2012 Olympics would be meeting to discuss ways of addressing the likely increase in prostitution during this time. Councillor Clues, a member of the task group, felt that it had addressed a very important issue and the task group had worked effectively with its partners. He stressed the need to reinforce the message to the Executive how important it was that this issue be tackled and that it underpinned a number of factors that needed to be looked at.

The Chair also welcomed the work undertaken by the task group and advised that the recommendations to the Executive would be tracked, with a follow-up report due to go back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee within the next six months. She commented that any future progress also depended on the Council's partners and she enquired how this would be taken forward and whether this would be considered by the Crime Prevention Strategy Group. She also asked how the recommendations with regard to Brent's local newspapers would be progressed.

In reply, Councillor John advised Members that local newspapers had guidelines in place with regard to sex industry advertisements, however it was important that newspapers be encouraged to follow their own guidelines and she suggested that the Crime Prevention Group could play a role in ensuring this. It was noted that the task group had met with organisations involved in the 2012 Olympics and one of their recommendations was that the Council and partners continue the work started by the task group.

Jacqueline Casson (Senior Policy Officer, Policy and Regeneration Unit) advised that Crime Prevention Group, as part of the LSP, had discussed the report and endorsed the recommendations. Cathy Tyson (Assistant Director – Policy, Policy and Regeneration Unit) added that the task group report could also be sent to the LSP Executive for information.

Members then endorsed the recommendations of the task group and agreed that an extra recommendation be added to include that a notice be placed in Brent Magazine providing information and useful contact numbers to those wishing to exit prostitution.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Services for Women In and Exiting Prostitution task group report be noted;
- (ii) that the Services for Women In and Exiting Prostitution task group recommendations be agreed and to include an additional recommendation that a notice be placed in Brent Magazine providing information and useful contact numbers to those wishing to exit prostitution; and
- (iii) that the report be passed to the Executive for approval.

9. Strengthening Local Democracy Task Group

Members had before them a scoping report on the Strengthening Local Democracy Task Group. Members then agreed to the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Strengthening Local Democracy Task Group scoping document, as set out in appendix one of the report, be agreed; and
- (ii) that it be agreed that work on the Task Group start at the next municipal year, 2010/11

10. Tubbs Road Councillor Call for Action

Councillor Powney was invited to update the Committee with regard to the Tubbs Road councillor call for action. In noting the decisions made by the Highways Committee on 19 January 2010, Councillor Powney added that Transportation officers had since met with the local residents association and there had been progress with regard to the review of signage and informing satellite navigation companies of the narrowness of Tubbs Road. Members noted that residents of Furness Road were pleased that the possibility of banning right hand turns out of their road into the High Road was being considered. Councillor Powney enquired when Transportation officers would provide an update of the scoping of the Harlesden Area Based Scheme to Members.

In reply, Andrew Davies (Policy and Performance Officer, Policy and Regeneration) stated that he would liaise with Transportation Unit as to when the scoping update would be provided to this Committee in the next municipal year. The Committee also agreed to follow up its recommendations on Tubbs Road in the summer of 2010.

11. Willesden Junction Station Councillor Call for Action Request

Councillor Powney who had requested the councillor call for action, was invited to address the Committee. He referred Members to his main concerns in the report, which included:-

- The poor and dangerous state of Station Approach
- Underuse of Hythe Road public footpath
- Poor management of land around the station leading to environmental health issues and lack of visual amenity.
- Poor maintenance of Harrow Road footpath
- Poor signage

Councillor Powney explained that the reasons for the poor state of Willesden Junction Station and the area around it could partly be attributable to the site occupying land in three London boroughs - Brent, Ealing and Hammersmith and Fulham, and because of a lack of clarity as to who owned particular areas of the site. This included Station Approach, which Councillor Powney understood was likely to be owned by Network Rail, however no response from the company had

been received despite repeated requests. He suggested that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF) be approached with a view to setting up a joint task group to look into this matter further and that other organisations such as Network Rail, London Overground and Transport for London (TfL) be requested to attend a meeting and provide an explanation of the poor state of the area and agree what action needed to be taken.

During discussion, Councillor Thomas commented that the issue could be pursued through both this Committee and LBHF's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and he asked whether funding issues were precluding Neighbourhood Working from taking action. Councillor Clues felt there was some value in taking joint action with LBHF, however he did not think it was necessary to be pursued through the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The Chair commented that she understood that LBHF did not operate task groups, however she agreed that it would be useful for LBHF to be involved. Members then agreed to her suggestion that ways of working with LBHF be considered to pursue this issue, that Environmental Services approach Network Rail to ascertain if they own Station Approach and that Neighbourhood Working be asked to investigate the possibility of taking action.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that Andrew Davies, Policy and Performance Officer, approach the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to see if their Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be prepared to look at ways of improving the area in and around Willesden Junction Station;
- (ii) that the Executive agree that Environmental Services be requested to approach Network Rail to ascertain whether Network Rail own Station Approach; and
- (iii) that the Executive agree that the Neighbourhood Working Team be asked to consider taking action to assist in improving the area in and around Willesden Junction Station.

12. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Members noted the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme. The Chair added that Members would be visiting learning disabilities day centres in the Borough on 23 February 2010.

13. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would take place on Tuesday, 23 March 2010 at 7.30 pm.

14. Any Other Urgent Business

None.

The meeting ended at 9.55 pm.

L. JONES
Chair



Overview & Scrutiny Committee March 2010

Report from the Director of Housing and Community Care

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

UPDATE REPORT ON DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE ATTENDING IN-HOUSE LEARNING DISABILITIES DAY CENTRES IN BRENT

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress in respect of an aspect of the Adult Social Care Transformation programme-the modernising of day opportunities for people with learning disabilities
- 1.2 It summarises the findings of assessed needs of learning disabilities day care service users.
- 1.3 The policy for implementing personalisation through the self directed support model is discussed within the context of providing choice and control for users. This includes the provision of personal budgets and/or direct payments and giving users a choice on how their budget allocation is spent.
- 1.4 The report provides an update on the proposal to re-provide services at Albert Road Day Centre on the John Bilham site in Preston.

2 Assessments

- 2.1 300 users and 96 carers have participated in a self directed assessment. The programme of assessment has taken a lot longer than originally anticipated mainly due to the holistic and detailed approach to the self directed support assessments and loading the information on to framework i. However the benefits of the process has been the service's ability to fully capture a complete needs assessment which will formulate the types of services which should be provided in the future to meet those assessed needs.
- 2.2 The assessment process is now fully completed and copies of the support plans have been agreed and signed off by carers. The next stage is to implement support plans in conjunction with the service user, key worker and their carer. In many cases this has already happened either through the day centres or by care managers at the point of the assessments. For example, if a person has requested to either reduce their days attending the day centre or move from Strathcona day centre to Projects to develop their skills for employment. Risk assessments have also been completed to

ensure that any change to service provision does not negatively impact on the user or their carer.

3 Assessments Analysis

3.1 Findings

3.2 The key areas that individuals identified a need for support to gain greater independence were:

Employment	Budgeting & Finance	Benefits
Keeping Safe	Support in accommodation	Travel Training
Shopping, Cooking & Housework	Health, Well being and Medication	Behaviour
Communication and decision making	Friendships	Developing Community contacts and social activities
Emotional support Relationships and sex. (There is an issue for Brent that the Personal Relationships Policy has yet to be approved.)	Personal Care	Diet
Dressing Appropriately	Physical mobility	Leisure pursuits
Learning new things	Developing routines	Not being left alone

3.3 There remained a strong identified need for social contact which many people identified as coming from attendance at the day centre

4 Personalisation

4.1 The strategic theme for improving day opportunities for people with learning disabilities comes from the central government agenda "Putting People first" (2007) and "Valuing People Now" (2009) which gives a clear direction that people who need social care should have more choice and control over how it is delivered, this is called Personalisation.

4.2 Personalisation is about giving people much more choice and control over their lives. It reinforces the idea that the individual is best placed to know what they need and how those needs can be best met. It creates a more responsive system of personal social care with the introduction of personal budgets and direct payment for service users.

4.3 Service users have been advocating for greater choice and control over the planning and delivery of their support. This and the increased demand which will be placed upon social care as people live longer strengthens the case for learning disabilities

services to change and become more flexible. Services need to be more efficient and effective in the way they deliver real outcomes for users and carers and to take the current plan for modernising services to a level where improved structures and work streams will deliver the required change to improve service provision and the lives of people with disabilities.

5 The next steps

- 5.1 The self directed support process implemented within Adult Community Care is Brent's introduction to the personalisation agenda commencing with the implementation of the self assessment questionnaire.
- 5.2 The process of servicing user's support plans will be formalised and fully commence in March 2010. This will be done by working closely with the user, their key worker and carer to establish the right pathway for improving the lives and well being and achieves their outcomes. Providing a personal budget and support through brokerage and advocacy to users and carers are the next steps to this process.
- 5.3 By April 2010 all users and their carers will know the amount of money allocated to them as part of their personal budget. This is an inclusive amount covering the full cost to support their needs; they will have the choice on how their budget is spent. The key component for the future will be that people who are eligible for services will have a budget that they can utilise to purchase services that are important to them rather than being given services that are seen as important for them.
- 5.4 A New Ways of Working training programme will be implemented within all of the day centres. Managers are currently working with small groups of staff teams to establish how service users, together with their key worker can bring about tangible benefits to improving the lives of day centre users.

6 Progress on the re-provision of Albert Road and Aspects Day Centres

- 6.1 Work to develop the site and floor plans for the John Bilham resource centre has now been completed. The Gujarati Arya Association London (GAAL), a community organisation, hold the lease for Kenton Hall which is their community building adjacent to the proposed John Bilham Resource Centre site. The GAAL are a key player within the proposed John Bilham Resource Centre scheme as access to their car park for current and future sport users is essential, especially as Park Services have plans to develop and expand sporting activities within the area. Negotiations have taken place with the GAAL to vary their current lease and to develop a joint Planning Application
- 6.2 A joint Planning application with the GAA based on the above agreement was presented to the Planning Department in February and the case will be heard at the Planning Committee meeting in April.

7 Consultation on the re-provision of Albert Road


- 7.1 Parents and carers have been involved throughout the consultation process in the criteria for relocation, accommodation and service requirements for the new resource centre. In addition, discussions have been held with the residents of Silverholmes sheltered housing, the local residents association and the chair of the Allotment Association within the John Bilham locality. Discussions have also been held with Parks Services to ensure the scheme can be effectively integrated within their plans to expand their services and improve of land drainage and facility access.

- 7.2 Staff within Albert Road and ASPPECTS day centres have also been involved within the consultation specifically with the building's internal layout and facilities
- 7.3 All stakeholders have given their full support for the scheme. A second round of consultation is planned for March 2010

8. Next Steps

- 8.1 Once planning application has been agreed the next steps are to survey the site and then commission the construction of the building. This will be done through the council's procurement procedures. It is envisage that the construction process will take approximately 18 months.

Nancie Alleyne
Special Projects Manager, Housing and Community Care

	<p style="text-align: center;">Overview & Scrutiny Committee 23rd March 2010</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report from the Director of Policy & Regeneration</p>
For Action	Wards Affected: ALL
<p style="text-align: center;">Crime and Disorder Follow Up – Community Payback and Section 60 Authorisations in Brent Borough</p>	

1. Summary

- 1.1 This briefing is reporting back on two key areas of interest Community Payback and Section 60 Authorisations in Brent Borough

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes ongoing and future actions for the Community Payback scheme and information on Section 60 Authorisations in Brent.

3. Detail

3.1 Brent Community Payback

- 3.2 Brent is a Pioneer Area for **Justice Seen, Justice Done (JSJD)** a government programme to increase public confidence in how crime is tackled and justice is delivered. Community Payback is a critical element in the JSJD campaign, as it demonstrates to the public that community sentences are not soft options and that criminals face tough consequences for their actions.
- 3.3 3,000 hours a year of work has been ring fenced for Community Payback in Brent to allocate to highly visible activity. The team work to clear rubbish, public spaces, graffiti and general clear ups under the supervision of the Probation Service, Community Payback team. All offenders are assessed for risk and no offender working on the programme will be in the high risk category.
- 3.4 Brent has always had a Community Payback Scheme, but since the start of JSJD is has become more visible and the hours have increased.
- 3.5 The local joint action group (JAG) chaired by the Met Police, Brian Lockie regularly assesses new work, tracks on going work , seeks to solve problems and to engage with all other partners. The group has representatives from Brent Council Streetcare & Highways, London Probation Service, and Brent ASB team, Brent Housing

Partnership and Environmental Services and Brent Community Safety Partnership Unit. It also includes representation from the Graffiti Board, Simon Egbor, who works closely with Stephen Harrell the Community Payback, co ordinator.

- 3.6 The scheme has raised its profile over the last six months and with all offenders now wearing high visibility vest, the community can see that 'justice is being done'. JSJD ran a community consultation on line /poster campaign in the Summer 09 asking community members to vote for the area they wanted cleared. The Canal in Brent was chosen as its major project, an over a week all the partner agencies spent considerable time ensuring that the Canal was cleared of rubbish. Local residents, Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT'S) and others were fully involved in this.
- 3.7 More recently the Brent Community Safety Partnership has highlighted the work of Community Payback with a calendar and information on how to nominate 'grime and crime hot spots', by using the Community Payback phone number or on line. Local residents can also nominate an area by contacting their local SNT.
- 3.8 The information below tells residents what Community Payback is and how to nominate in your area.

'Is there a project in your area that needs Community Payback? To be considered your project must meet the following criteria:'

- **It must benefit the local community**
- **It must not take paid work away from others**
- **No one must make a profit from the work**
- **It must be challenging and demanding**
- **It must be worthwhile and constructive**
- **Offenders must be seen to be putting something back into the community.**

- 3.9 The Community Payback team will assess the project for suitability and for health and safety implications. Once the work has been completed a plaque will be displayed with the Community Payback logo, if appropriate. This will indicate where offenders have positively contributed to improving a neighbourhood.
- 3.10 Anyone can nominate a project, so, if you are an individual, member of a club, community group, faith group or voluntary organisation and have a project that fits the criteria above, please complete our online form.

Community Payback Nomination Form

**If you have any queries about Community Payback please contact us:
Call our dedicated Community Payback helpline: 07894 176943.
Or email payback@london.probation.gsi.gov.uk**

- 3.11 **Section 60 Authorisations in Brent Borough**
- 3.12 **Power and procedures** – Section 60 is a search power provided by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. It allows senior police officers from Home Office Police Forces and the British Transport Police to authorise constables to stop and search persons in a specific area, either where a serious public order problem is likely to arise or has taken place, or for offensive weapons or dangerous instruments.

- 3.13 It is possible for Inspectors to authorise this power to be used at short notice and for them to declare the area to be included in the authorization, but this then needs to be conveyed to an officer not below the rank of Superintendent as soon as practicable. If the decision is not urgent then a Superintendent will be the authorising officer.
- 3.14 All authorisations are documented and forwarded to Territorial Policing who maintain a record of the occasions when Section 60 has been authorised.
- 3.15 There are additional powers that can be attached to the original authorisation including the requirement to remove a face covering (Mask).
- 3.16 When a Section 60 Search power is authorised it is always discussed and reviewed at the Brent Police Daily Management Meeting, attended by all available Senior Management Team members. The use is reviewed every 24 hours. The Section 60 geographical area is also stipulated by the authorising officer, not all authorisations are borough wide, dependent on the intelligence and information that is provided.

3.17 Community engagement and notification

- 3.18 Where possible the Police will always try and speak to a community leader before authorizing an authority.
- 3.19 When a Section 60 is authorised Superintendent Simon Corkill informs key community representatives, providing a short explanation as to why that authorisation was given. The same community members will also be informed when the Section 60 authorisation has been cancelled.

3.20 Number of times that a Section 60 has been authorized in 2009

- 3.21 In the last 12 months Brent Police have authorised a total of 96 periods where Section 60 was in force. This compares to 353 times in Newham, 263 times in Southwark and 193 times in Hackney. It is worth noting that like Brent these are Operation Trident boroughs. The statistics on neighbouring boroughs include 44 times in Ealing, 36 times in Camden and 25 times in Harrow. (non Trident boroughs) are not really comparable.

3.22 Numbers of people stopped

- 3.23 In total 4431 people were stopped using Section 60 during the whole of 2009.

3.24 Results of stops

- 3.25 130 of the Section 60 stops resulted in an arrest (3%) and a further 63 of these resulted in a Cannabis Warnings (1%). The remainder saw police taking no further action. On most occasions the use of this authority with an increased police presence prevents violence or further violence from occurring.

3.26 Breakdown of people stopped by gender and ethnicity

- 4355 were males
- 76 were females
- 919 were white
- 156 were defined as dark skinned Europeans
- 2210 were of African-Caribbean appearance

- 1029 were of Asian appearance
- 28 were of Chinese/Japanese appearance
- 66 were of Arabian/Egyptian appearance.
- 23 persons were described as an unknown appearance. These are police attributed appearances and not self defined ethnicity

3.27 Breakdown of people stopped by age

- 1925 were aged 18-25 years old
- 1607 were aged 10-17
- 813 were aged 26-45
- 69 persons were aged 46-65
- 11 were described by police as being of an age unknown
- 3 were over 65
- 3 were under 10

2.28 Geographical areas

3.29 There are occasions when the power is extended to the whole of Brent, but where possible the power will be restricted to a defined area

4. Financial Implications

4.1 Nil

5. Legal Implications

5.1 Nil

6. Diversity Implications

6.1 Nil

7. Staffing/Accommodation implications (if appropriate)

7.1 Nil

Background Papers

Contact Officers.

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Director Policy & Regeneration

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Overview and Scrutiny Committee 23rd March 2010</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report from the Director of Environment and Culture</p>
<p>For Action Wards Affected: ALL</p>	
<p>Gating of alleyways</p>	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Alleyways tend to be secluded areas, the majority of which are either in private ownership or the collective responsibility of those abutting / adjoining the alley. They are rarely the responsibility of Brent Council.
- 1.2 Their seclusion leads them to be vulnerable to environmental crime and anti-social behaviour, British Crime Statistics indicated that a half of burgled properties are entered from the rear, which will include those attached to alleyways.
- 1.3 Gating of the alleyways makes it more difficult for fly-tippers, reduces the opportunity for anti-social behaviour and acts as a deterrent to burglaries from the rear.

2. Development of gating

- 2.1 Gating developed within Environmental Health as an experimental response to measures that sought to permanently reduce the demand for Council intervention to deal with the issue of rubbish dumped on publically accessible, but privately owned land. Initially the service was focussed on Harlesden and implemented from NRF time-limited funds.
- 2.2 Council funding for gating in Brent was first provided to Environmental Health in April 2003. Despite increased Council funding, the success of gating has resulted in more demand than funds. The service has adapted, and now the team supplements the gating programme by undertaking additional gating work, funded by Neighbourhood Working.
- 2.3 Gating is one amongst a number of tools used to improve an area and make it less accessible or attractive to those intent on anti-social behaviour. Other initiatives have included:

- Installation of barriers – on the entrance to car parks / disused buildings
- Fencing off areas - to open spaces/parcels of land that are not parks
- Resurfacing roads or passages
- Makeovers – e.g. planting flowers in gated alleyways

2.4 A 'scheme' may include one or more alleyways or interlinking branches of alleyway. A breakdown of schemes since 2003 is provided below:

Year	No. of area improvement schemes completed	No. of pedestrian gates	No. of vehicular gates	Total No. of gates	No. of properties deriving benefit
2003/04	4	8	0	8	Unmeasured
2004/05	10	6	22	28	Unmeasured
2005/06	17	10	36	46	1008
2006/07	15	12	15	27	628
2007/08	16	1	28	29	894
2008/09	17	7	20	27	746
2009/10 est	17	5	31	36	776
Total	96	49	152	201	4052

3. Selection of Schemes

3.1 Prioritisation for gating is based on eligibility criteria which are, in summary:

- practicalities of gating;
- likelihood of success;
- value for money;
- the incidence of environmental crime and anti-social behaviour;
- residents' willingness to effectively manage the land after gates have been installed.

3.2 Prior to 2009/10 these criteria were predominantly based on just the degree of environmental crime i.e. fly-tipping, litter, etc. In the last year this has been broadened out to include the incidence of other forms of anti-social behaviour and we are attempting to extend this to relevant crimes such as burglary where access is gained from alleyways.

3.3 Other Council services undertake their own selection process and then request assistance from Environmental Health on co-ordinating the schemes. This provides an efficient way of providing a centralised service from with Environmental Health who have the expertise and arrangements in place to best undertake this role. A tendering exercise is undertaken annually on gating and rubbish clearance service providers to ensure that the Council obtains value for money. Environmental Health adhere to documented operating

procedures and install gates to a proven specification. This ensures the sustainability of the schemes and reduces the need for future maintenance.

4. The Gating Process

- 4.1 Following initial selection of a gating scheme, residents, ward Councillors and relevant Council officers are invited to a public meeting to discuss the proposal. For the scheme to progress, a Resident’s Gating Committee must be formed and 95% of residents must support the scheme. A formal agreement to the scheme arrangements has to be signed by the Gating Committee and the EH Council Officer.
- 4.2 We then arrange manufacture and installation of the gates, attachment of signs and fire brigade boxes and purchase of security keys. Once the gates have been installed, we arrange to support residents on a clean-up day to clear rubbish and overgrown bushes, brambles etc. Clean-up days are organised so as to include residents and our Pay-Back partners. In this way it brings residents together and injects some social responsibility for the scheme and hence, they are more likely to maintain the alleyway in future.
- 4.3 The keys are donated to the Committee to either give them out to residents or to sell to residents to provide a fund for future maintenance for which the Committee is responsible. At this stage a residents support session is organised to reiterate the future responsibilities of the Committee, residents and the Council.
- 4.4 EH often work with Streetcare, the local Safer neighbourhood Scheme and the Council’s Neighbourhood Working team. Some schemes have involved external partners such as British Waterways and is an excellent example of mainstream partnership working.

5. The Cost of Gating

- 5.1 A typical gating scheme requiring two gates, protecting 50 properties, requires the following expenditure (excluding officer salaries and Corporate overheads):

Service	Actual expenditure
Planning application fee	£600
Residents meeting (e.g. hall hire)	£300
Manufacture and installation of gates	£2,700
Purchase of keys	£500
Rubbish clearance	£600
TOTAL expenditure	£4,700

6. Measuring the Success of Gating

- 6.1 The success of gating is currently measured by undertaking resident perception surveys for those resident directly affected by each scheme. A pre-gating survey is undertaken followed by a survey three months after completion of each scheme.
- 6.2 An analysis of the residents surveys for the 2008/9 schemes shows that 88% of residents feel that the installation of their gates has had a positive affect on reducing environmental crime and anti-social behaviour. This perception of crime tends to be a larger problem in communities than crime itself and the positive effect of gating will directly contribute towards a better score on the National Indicator 17: *The perception of anti-social behaviour*.

7. The future of environmental improvement

- 7.1 It is estimated that there are over 1400 alleyways in the borough. To date 180 of these have been gated in the seven years since gating began. For this reason it would not be sensible to aim to gate all alleyways. At present the service is aimed at those alleyways that are associated with the highest levels of environmental crime and more recently the highest levels of ASB and property crime.
- 7.2 Gating will not be the solution for all alleyways and we have found that schemes are only successful where residents are fully behind the project and take responsibility for maintaining the gates and ensuring they are kept locked and new residents have access.
- 7.3 In our Service Operational Plan for 2010/11 Environmental Health has committed to start proactively assessing privately owned and publically accessible land to determine need and priority for intervention in future work programmes. In this way we will start to compile a database that will enable us in the future to better draw a line under the high priority alleyways and quantify the expenditure needed to gate them or install alternative methods to reduce ASB.

Stephen Moore
Deputy Head of Service
Environmental Health
9th March 2010

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme – 2009/10

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 27th May 2009

Pre Meeting Planning		Post Meeting Actions		
Subject and Witness	Issue	Outcomes and Actions Arising	Responsible Officer	Deadline and Status
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership – Genny Renard, Interim Head of Community Safety	Crime targets – This item should be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to give members an overview of the main issues in Brent for the police and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. This will include information on how the different partners in the CDRP work together to reduce crime in the borough. It is also now a requirement under the Police and Justice Act 2006 for councils to scrutinise the CDRP.	<p>The committee requested the following:</p> <p>Information on operation payback The project being run by the probation service to work with people sentenced to prison for less than 12 months.</p> <p>Information on Section 60, stop and search powers - how this works, when it's been used in Brent, including a breakdown of the age, gender and ethnicity of those people searched under S60 in the last 12 months.</p> <p>These issues should come back to the committee by December 2009. This will form part of its formal work as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee of the Council.</p>	Genny Renard, Interim Head of Community Safety	December 2009
Voluntary Sector Strategy – Linda Martin, Head of Service Development and	The Committee would like an update on the progress in preparing the Voluntary Sector Strategy. This work is likely to have been moved on following the	<p>The Committee requested a progress update in 6 months focussing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the development of the voluntary sector 	Linda Martin, Head of Service Development and	8 th December 2009

Commissioning	Voluntary Sector conference held in Brent in March 2009, which was one of the task group's original recommendations.	<p>strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relationships with the voluntary sector the use of Grant Tracker to avoid double funding organisations. <p>It was suggested that some voluntary sector representatives might also attend the committee for this item.</p>	Commissioning	
<p>Town Centre Regeneration Task Group Follow Up – Andrew Davies, Policy and Performance Officer</p> <p>Page 26</p>	The Committee will follow up the recommendations made by the Town Centre Regeneration Task Group to ensure they have been implemented, or are being implemented where agreed.	<p>The committee has asked for answers to the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the likely timescale for developing a protocol to agreeing priorities and respond to environmental issues raised by town centre managers? 2. Does the council have an existing town centre strategy and is it still relevant, as the development of a new strategy appears to be reliant on funding for an external consultant? 3. Are there still plans to review the possibility of introducing dual use of properties in town centres e.g. retail or residential through the LDF in 2010? 4. When are PCSOs to begin environmental monitoring as the introduction of this power for PCSOs was one of the reasons why members agreed to stop funding a street warden service? <p>These will be reported to the next meeting of the committee, in July 2009.</p>	Andrew Davies, Policy and Performance Officer	9 th July 2009
Current Task Group Updates - Andrew Davies, Policy and	The Committee will be given progress reports on each of the task groups currently in progress. They are:	Reports noted		Completed. Task Groups will report in due

Performance Officer	Transition Services Recycling in Flats Services for people exiting prostitution Climate change			course.
Task Group Scopes - Andrew Davies, Policy and Performance Officer	The Committee will receive two scoping documents: Services for adults with learning disabilities Review of councillors commission report From these scoping documents, members should select which of these task groups they would like to establish once current task groups have been completed.	Agreed to add services for adults with learning disabilities to the list of task groups.	Andrew Davies, Policy and Performance Officer.	Task Group will begin once there is capacity amongst officers to start work on this project.
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme - Andrew Davies, Policy and Performance Officer	The Committee should consider the items currently listed in the work programme and decide what they wish to prioritise and which items can be removed from the work programme. Members should also add in any issues they wish to consider at future meetings.	Work programme agreed. Members will have the opportunity to discuss the programme at each committee meeting this year to add or take away items depending on priorities.	Andrew Davies, Policy and Performance Officer	Work programme agreed.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9th July 2009

Pre Meeting Planning

Post Meeting Actions

Subject and Witness	Issue	Outcomes and Actions Arising	Responsible Officer	Deadline and Status
Introduction to work of Business Transformation Department – Graham Ellis, Director of Business Transformation	Business Transformation - Graham Ellis has been invited to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee so members can learn more about the new Business Transformation Department and priorities for the year ahead.	The committee has asked for a progress update on transformation projects to be presented to members in February 2010.	Graham Ellis	9 th February 2010.
<p>Leader's Update on Council Priorities – Cllr Paul Lorber</p> <p>Page 28</p>	<p>Councillor Paul Lorber, leader of the council, will be invited to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide an update on the work of the administration and to give the committee the chance to question him on performance and policy. Members have asked for an update on four areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the impact of the recession on local people and how the Council is responding to this • progress on delivering the improvement programme • progress on providing new social housing and • efforts made to recruit more permanent social care staff. 	<p>Deputy Leader attended the committee in place of the Leader. As a result, members have asked that the Leader attends in October to answer questions on the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The provision of school places in the borough 2. The impact of the recession on local people and on the council. 3. Efforts to recruit social care staff, especially in children's services. 	Andrew Davies to arrange with Ian Young	13 th October 2009
One Stop Service – Sandra Walker, Assistant Director, Customer Services	One Stop Service redesign update – Update to include specific information on nature of enquiries and increases / decreases in demand for specific services following discussion on this issue at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2009.	Report noted by the committee. Members wish to follow up the issue of falling numbers of service users, and the implications this has for the service. This has been scheduled in to the work programme for February 2010.	Sandra Walker	9 th February 2010.

<p>Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report – Stella Akintan, Policy and Performance Officer</p>	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider the annual report as part of the process of improving the scrutiny function, to assess what aspects of O&S worked well in 2008/09 and consider areas for improvement in 2009/10.</p>	<p>Report agreed. Will go forward to Full Council.</p>	<p>Stella Akintan</p>	<p>September 2009</p>
<p>Town Centre Regeneration Task Group – Answers to members questions - Andrew Davies, Policy and Performance Officer</p>	<p>Answers to questions about this task group for information, following request in May 2009.</p>	<p>Andrew Davies to follow up and provide answers to members questions.</p>	<p>Andrew Davies / Michael Read</p>	<p>August 2009</p>
<p>Cricklewood Library</p>	<p>The chair of the committee has asked for a briefing on the future plans for Cricklewood Library. This is in response to media reports suggesting the use of the building may be changed. Members will need to decide how they want to take this issue forward if they are concerned about the proposals.</p>	<p>The committee discussed this issue in detail, following representations from two members of the public on the plans for Cricklewood Library and the borough archive. Members support the project to move the archive and refurbish the library to include a children’s centre. The following recommendations were made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). That steps are taken to fully inform Cricklewood Library users on what children's centres do, how they operate, how the centre and library will interact within the refurbished building. 2). That information is made available to Cricklewood Library users setting out: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a). How the £400,000 investment in the building will be spent b). How noise from children's centre will be contained to reduce the impact on library users c). How access to the building will be separately 	<p>Sue McKenzie, Head of Libraries, Arts and Heritage</p>	<p>September 2009</p>

		for users of the library and children's centre, again to minimise disruption for library users 3). That the outcome of the legal investigations regarding the covenant on the building be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Care Plans for people with physical or learning disabilities	The chair has asked for a briefing on the requirement for local authorities to produce care plans for people with physical or learning disabilities and how these are delivered in Brent Such information will inform questioning on social care items that come to the committee in the future.	Report noted		

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 13th October 2009

Pre Meeting Planning		Post Meeting Actions		
Subject and Witness	Issue	Outcomes and Actions Arising	Responsible Officer	Deadline and Status
Leader's Update on Council Priorities – Cllr Paul Lorber	Councillor Paul Lorber, leader of the council, has been invited to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as he was unable to make the July meeting. The purpose of the invite is to provide an update on the work of the administration and to give the committee the chance to question him on performance and policy.	<p>The Committee has asked for written answers to questions on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on referrals to children's services for child neglect / safety issues. Are referrals increasing and what is this attributed to, Baby P, the recession? Information on the number of companies that have 	Cllr Paul Lorber and Ian Young, Liberal Democrat Group Office	December 2009

	<p>Members have asked for an update on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The provision of school places in the borough 2. The impact of the recession on local people and on the council. 3. Efforts to recruit social care staff, especially in children's services. 4. Shared services opportunities. Original request was to focus on adult social care, but the committee would like a general update on the progress made in this area. 	<p>taken up the council's reduction in business rates, being offered to small business during the recession.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on the shared services agenda, specifically when the West London Alliance begins to commission services. How much is this arrangement saving the council? 		
<p>Learning disabilities day centres – Lance Douglas, Assistant Director, Quality and Support</p>	<p>Consultation on learning disabilities day centres – Report on outcomes of the consultation and the way forward. This follows on from the committee item on this issue considered in March 2009. A visit to a day centre may also be organised to tie in with this item.</p>	<p>Report back on the further progress agreed for February 2010.</p> <p>The Committee has also requested a visit to a day centre to happen before the report back.</p>	<p>Andrew Davies to liaise with Lance Douglas</p>	<p>December 2009</p>
<p>Local Strategic Partnership Annual Report – Cathy Tyson, Assistant Director, Policy</p>	<p>Overview and scrutiny has a responsibility to bring democratic accountability to local strategic partnerships. Reviewing the LSP's annual report is a useful way of carrying out this role and assessing the impact the partnership has had on services, and the outcomes from those services.</p>	<p>Agreement that future scrutiny of LSP matters will be on where the partnership is adding value. Forward Plan to be added to OSC work programme so that work of LSP can be monitored.</p>	<p>Joanna McCormick</p>	<p>February 2010</p>
<p>Local Strategic Partnership Self Evaluation – Cathy Tyson, Assistant Director, Policy.</p>	<p>LSP Self Evaluation / Assessment – review of LSP self assessment work as part of member involvement in partnership scrutiny.</p>	<p>As above – LSP Annual Report</p>		
<p>Tubbs Road Councillor Call for Action</p>	<p>Councillor James Powney has submitted a councillor call for action request</p>	<p>The Committee has agreed to consider this item at its next meeting in December 2009. A site visit</p>	<p>Andrew Davies to arrange</p>	<p>December 2009</p>

	regarding traffic and congestion concerns at Tubbs Road, Kensal Green. The committee should consider whether it wishes to look at this issue in more detail at its meeting in December 2009.	to Tubbs Road will be arranged to take place before full consideration of the issue.		
Recycling in Flats Task Group	Final report of the task group, for committee endorsement. The report will be sent to the Executive for approval, once recommendations have been agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	Recommendations endorsed to be passed to the Executive for approval. Members have requested an update on the Waste Contract Service Review that is to take place.	Jacqueline Casson and Andrew Davies.	February 2010.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 8th December 2009

Page 3

Pre Meeting Planning		Post Meeting Actions		
Subject and Witness	Issue	Outcomes and Actions Arising	Responsible Officer	Deadline and Status
Tubbs Road Councillor Call for Action	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been asked by Cllr Powney to investigate the traffic issues at Tubbs Road. The committee should call witnesses to the meeting to outline the problem and agree recommendations for a way forward.	The committee made a number of recommendations on this issue for consideration by the Highways Committee in January 2010. The outcome of the Highways Committee discussion on the issue will be reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February 2010.	Andrew Davies to prepare report for Highways Committee.	Highways Committee on 19 th January 2010. Report back to O&S in February 2010.
Safeguarding Adults Annual Report – Martin Cheeseman, Director, Housing and	Safeguarding Adults Annual Report – Partner organisations will be invited	Report noted. O&S requested that additional information on unsubstantiated claims be included in the next report, so that they are aware of the reasons why cases haven't been	Sarah McDermott to prepare 2009/10 report for	December 2010.

Community Care		pursued.	committee.	
Voluntary Sector Strategy – Linda Martin, Head of Service Development and Commissioning	<p>In May 2009 the Committee requested a progress update focussing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the development of the voluntary sector strategy relationships with the voluntary sector the use of Grant Tracker to avoid double funding organisations. <p>It was suggested that some voluntary sector representatives might also attend the committee for this item.</p>	<p>O&S agreed to consider two issues when they follow this up in the future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The communication issues raised by CAB and how these will be addressed. Councillors requested area based information on voluntary and community sector organisations in the borough, to help them in their work and to get to know the voluntary sector in their area. <p>The timetable for developing the strategy is still to be confirmed, but future updates will fit in with this.</p>	Linda Martin	To be confirmed
Climate Change Task Group Page 33	Final report of the task group, for committee endorsement. The report will be sent to the Executive for approval, once recommendations have been agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	<p>Recommendations endorsed and one other recommendation added:</p> <p>“That each report presented to the council's Executive contains a paragraph outlining its environmental impact, in order to mainstream climate change mitigation in service delivery”.</p>	Stella Akintan	Executive in early 2010. Follow up by O&S in 2010/11
Strengthening Local Democracy – motion from council	Details of the motion to council, passed to Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be included on the agenda. The matter relates to strengthening local democracy and the possibility of an overview and scrutiny task group to look into this. Members should decide how they wish to take the matter forward.	The committee agreed that this task group should take place and have asked for a scope to be presented in February 2010. They have also asked for a scope on a task group to review the ally gating schemes in the borough.	Andrew Davies	February 2010

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9th February 2010

Pre Meeting Planning		Post Meeting Actions		
Subject and Witness	Issue	Outcomes and Actions Arising	Responsible Officer	Deadline and Status
One Stop Service Redesign – Sandra Walker, Assistant Director, Customer Services	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee have considered two reports previously on the redesign of the one stop service. They are keen to follow up on the reasons why the numbers of clients using the service is reducing (as reported in July 2009), and the implications this has.	Agreed that the committee would receive an update on progress with the project in 9 months, with focus on Harlesden customer contact arrangements and falling number of customer contacts using the one stop service.	Graham Ellis / Sandra Walker.	November 2010
Joint Commissioning Registered Social Landlord Performance report – (Sona Chumun 2314)	This item will give members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee an opportunity to question RSLs in the borough on their performance during the past 12 months. Information will be sought from all RSLs with housing stock in Brent.	Report back to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the summer of 2010, to include the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of 2009/10 performance for RSLs in Brent. • An overview of street properties in Brent and the issues connected with these, such as repairs / ASB. RSLs with street properties to attend the committee to answer councillors' questions. • The committee should go on a tour of sites prior to consideration of the report. • An overview of the new performance regime should be included in the report. 	Tony Hirsh	Summer 2010
Neighbourhood Working	Neighbourhood Working – Feedback on	The committee has asked for a briefing on	Christine Collins.	TBC

– Christine Collins, Neighbourhood Working Manager	key issues: member engagement, commitment and satisfaction with the process and new ways of involving residents and presentation of Annual Report.	Neighbourhood Working budget spend in 2009/10, in time for their March meeting. In addition, the committee will consider the NW annual report, either in summer 2010 or wait until summer 2011.		
Services for women exiting prostitution task group	Final report of the task group, for committee endorsement. The report will be sent to the Executive for approval, once recommendations have been agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	Report approved, with an additional recommendation included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The task group and social issues connected to the subject are the basis of an article in the Brent magazine. 	Jacqueline Casson	March 2010
Task Group Scopes – improving local democracy	Scope requested at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December 2009.	Scope approved – to begin in June 2010.	Andrew Davies	June 2010
Tubbs Road councillor call for action	Report back from Highways Committee meeting on 19 th January 2010.	The committee will follow up the recommendations from the Tubbs Road Councillor Call for Action in the summer of 2010 (meeting date still to be confirmed).	Andrew Davies	Summer 2010
Willesden Junction Station councillor call for action	Submitted to overview and scrutiny committee by Cllr Powney for consideration.	The Committee will follow up the Willesden Junction Councillor Call for Action once it has heard whether Hammersmith and Fulham Council are willing to establish a joint task group to look into the issue. Neighbourhood Working will also be looking into this in the meantime.	Andrew Davies	Spring / summer 2010

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 23rd March 2010

Pre Meeting Planning		Post Meeting Actions		
Subject and Witness	Issue	Outcomes and Actions Arising	Responsible Officer	Deadline and Status
Crime and Disorder Issues follow up – Genny Renard, Interim Head of Community Safety Page 36	In May 2009 the committee requested the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on operation payback • The project being run by the probation service to work with people sentenced to prison for less than 12 months. • Information on Section 60, stop and search powers - how this works, when it's been used in Brent, including a breakdown of the age, gender and ethnicity of those people searched under S60 in the last 12 months. These issues will form part of its formal work as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee of the Council.			
Transitions Services Task Group	Final report of the Transitions Services Task group, looking at services for vulnerable young people as they move from children's to adult's services.			
Transforming Adult Social Care – update on Day Centres for people	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has requested an update on this project, to follow on from the meeting in October			

with learning disabilities – Lance Douglas, Assistant Director, Quality and Support	2009 where the members discussed this issue most recently.			
Ally Gating	The chair of the committee has requested a report looking at the success of ally gating projects in Brent. The report will include information on their history, the process of installing them, successes and failures and how their use can be improved.			
Town Centre Regeneration Task Group Follow up	The committee wishes to follow up the recommendations from this task group in order to complete its review.			

Outstanding items – To be carried forward to 2010/11.

Proposed Item	Issue for Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider	Meeting Date
Gangs in Brent – Phil Newby, Director, Policy and Regeneration	Independent research into the nature and prevalence of gang activity in Brent has been commissioned. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may wish to consider the results of this research and could also choose to carry out a task group looking at this issue.	
Voluntary Sector Strategy Follow up – Linda Martin	<p>O&S agreed to consider two issues when they follow this up in the future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The communication issues raised by CAB and how these will be addressed. • Councillors requested area based information on voluntary and community sector organisations in the borough, to help them in their work and to get to know the voluntary sector in their area. <p>The timetable for developing the strategy is still to be confirmed, but future updates will fit in with this.</p>	
Safeguarding Adults Annual	O&S requested that additional information on unsubstantiated claims be included in	

Report	the next report, so that they are aware of the reasons why cases haven't been pursued.	
Process for registering town greens in Brent	Issues suggested by member of the public. This will be allocated if members are interested in the item. It has been prompted by application to register Gladstone Park as a town green.	
Tubbs Road Councillor Call for Action	The committee will follow up the recommendations from the Tubbs Road Councillor Call for Action in the summer of 2010 (meeting date still to be confirmed).	
Willesden Junction Station Councillor Call for Action	The Committee will follow up the Willesden Junction Councillor Call for Action once it has heard whether Hammersmith and Fulham Council are willing to establish a joint task group to look into the issue. Neighbourhood Working will also be looking into this in the meantime.	
RSL Performance Report	Report back to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the summer of 2010, to include the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of 2009/10 performance for RSLs in Brent. • An overview of street properties in Brent and the issues connected with these, such as repairs / ASB. RSLs with street properties to attend the committee to answer councillors questions. • The committee should go on a tour of sites prior to consideration of the report. • An overview of the new performance regime should be included in the report. 	
One Stop Service Redesign	Agreed that the committee would receive an update on progress with the project in 9 months, with focus on Harlesden customer contact arrangements and falling number of customer contacts using the one stop service.	
Neighbourhood Working Annual Report	To be considered by the Committee in summer 2010 (depending on need to do this following briefing in March 2010) or summer 2011.	
Review of Fees and Charges for Adult Social Care	The chair of the committee has asked that this report be included on the committee's work programme. She wants members to monitor the implementation of the new fees and charges for adult social care, and in particular consider the impact on service users and carers. The report will also contain information on fees and charges in relation to personalised social care services. Guidance on this has been released by Government. More likely to come forward in 2010/11.	
Services for women in and exiting prostitution – task group follow up	Follow up of task group recommendations, within 6 months of their approval by the Executive.	