


Agenda Item No.13

 Brent	Full Council 23 January 2017 Report from the Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships
For Action	Wards Affected: ALL
Report from the Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Matt Kelcher	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the work carried out by the Council's Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Standing Order 14. The report covers the period from 21 November 2016 to present, detailing committee members, planned training, programme of work and items discussed during the committee meetings.

2.0 Detail

2.1 *Scrutiny Committee*

Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

This committee covers corporate resources, (including Customer Services, Policy, Partnerships and Performance, Procurement and IT) as well as regeneration, regulatory services, environment, transport and community safety. The Committee is composed of eight elected members (seven from the Labour Group and one opposition group member, which is consistent with current political balance arrangements).

In December 2016, Councillor Tatler resigned from the Committee to take up a post with the Cabinet. On 23 January, a new Member will be appointed to the Committee following approval by Full Council.

2.2 *Committee Meetings*

Since the last Chair's report in November, the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee has met twice. These meetings were under the chairmanship of Councillor Matt Kelcher. A summary of the meetings is as follows:

Following a call-in by a number of backbench Councillors, the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee met in a special meeting held in December to consider plans for the Granville Centre as part of South Kilburn Development. The Committee decided not to refer the decision back to Cabinet but did make a series of key recommendations about how such projects could be better managed in future. These were:

- (i) That the committee supports the continued use/occupation of the Carlton and Granville Centres Site by the Granville Plus Nursery School;
- (ii) That the Cabinet agrees that the use of the Carlton and Granville Centres Site by the Granville Plus Nursery School should be paramount to any discussions regarding the future of the site;
- (iii) That the Cabinet agrees to ensure that the Granville Plus Nursery be fully involved regarding the design of the facility;
- (iv) That the Cabinet agrees that a twelve-month timetable detailing the collaborative process for determining the future development and use of the site, engaging all key stakeholders, be produced as soon as possible in association with the Council's partners in the project, the South Kilburn Trust and the Greater London Assembly;
- (v) That the twelve-month timetable be presented to the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee in three months' time;
- (vi) That the Constitutional Working Group considers establishing a formal mechanism to capture Ward Member consultation in any significant decisions affecting their areas, ensuring that Ward Members have sufficient chance to review and comment on any proposals prior to Cabinet consideration;
- (vii) That the Constitutional Working Group considers a process to ensure that appropriate consultation has been conducted prior to significant decisions being undertaken and explore the possible inclusion of a 'stakeholder' section in Cabinet reports; and
- (viii) That a report detailing in full the extent and nature of the collaboration between the Council, the community and key stakeholders in the progression of the development of the Carlton and Granville Centres Site be provided to the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny committee in six months' time.

On 10 January 2017, the Committee received the following reports:

Budget Scrutiny Panel Report

Councillor Kelcher and Councillor McLennan presented the report, which introduced the new budget scrutiny process. This included details on plans to increase the level of Council Tax in the area over the next few years and that

the Cabinet will be announcing a “demand-led” review of CPZs in Brent – should an issue be raised by local residents or the Ward Councillor – and with the aim of devising a new long-lasting parking policy. The Panel has identified areas of overspend in Adult Social Care and in Children and Young People’s Departments – owing to the increasing demand for Social Care being unpredictable and the challenges of a changing democracy. All the detailed cuts and savings brought forward by the Cabinet have been considered, and further information has been requested accordingly. All of the areas where savings might be made, which include in Adult Social Care, in Environmental Improvement, and in Regeneration. This was followed by the key recommendations.

Report for Scrutiny on Brent’s High Streets

Councillor Tatler and Councillor Southwood presented the report. All seventeen high streets in Brent are an important aspect of its character. The report presented the importance of the cleanliness of the high streets, and how it reflects both to residents and to visitors of the Borough. The Council is aiming to make Brent cleaner, to make feel better about their surroundings and improve their quality of life. Currently the cleaning service is provided by Veolia who aim to provide a Grade A standard of no litter or refuse being left behind and that this would be constantly monitored. Timed waste collections will take place, together with collections of commercial waste and Brent will be introducing a 12 month trial of local Litter Patrols. A focus is being made on Wembley High Road for regeneration to fund improvements including the delivery of a vision for the new Town Centre, and the Town Centre Management Plan. Other current projects include the development of properties in the area including the disposal of various buildings, improvement to the existing urban square, and landscaping and planting trees.

Capital Programme and Investment Strategy

Councillor McLennan presented the report, which gave an overview of whole Capital Programme in Brent, its current performance and an update on the Investment strategy. The Committee also noted the present and future Capital Programme’s budget, the reasons for the under spend in 2017 and the implementation of an action plan addressing the under-importance of the Capital Programme. The various portfolios (Schools’, Housing, Estate Regeneration – South Kilburn, Highways and Infrastructure, Estate Regeneration – non-housing, and Corporate Landlord), which made up the Capital Programme were discussed - together with the risks which might affect the Programme. An update was given of the Investment Strategy and also additions to the Programme, which had been approved by Cabinet after the budget-setting process had taken place. These included schemes approved in 2016, such as the Knowles House Scheme, London Road, Ujima House, and highway investment in the Borough.

2.6 *Upcoming Scrutiny Meetings and Activities*

The next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee is scheduled for 8 March 2017 and will consider:

- Unemployment and Work Programme Providers

- Is Brent a “green” Council? / Environmental Sustainability agenda
- Prevent

The Chair of the Committee can add an oral report on any issues arising.

Contact Officers

Pascoe Sawyers
Head of Strategy and Partnerships
pascoe.sawyers@brent.gov.uk
0208 937 1045

PETER GADSDON