



Brent

MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES AND PUBLIC REALM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday 13 July 2021 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Mashari (Chair), Councillor Kansagra (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Choudhary, Johnson, Kabir, Long and Hylton

Also Present: Councillor M Butt (Leader of the Council), Councillor McLennan (Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources), Councillor Krupa Sheth (Lead Member for Environment), Councillor Knight (Lead Member for Community Safety and Engagement) and Councillors Chan, Shah and Ketan Sheth

1. **Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Conneely and Miller.

2. **Declarations of interests**

Councillors Long, Johnson and Shah declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 7 because they were members of the Redefining Local Services Working Group.

3. **Deputations (if any)**

None.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 May 2021 be approved as a correct record.

5. **Matters arising (if any)**

None.

Topical Item

Councillor Mashari, as Chair, introduced the topical item discussion on the safety concerns at Wembley Stadium in light of the scenes at the EURO 2020 Final. The Committee was then invited to raise questions on the topical item, which focused on a number of key areas as highlighted below:

- It was noted that the Council was responsible for a range of functions before, during and after an event at Wembley Stadium. This included street cleaning and litter collection, parking enforcement, stadium safety inspections, highways control, upholding public protection orders, liaising with local businesses, brand protection work and public health measures.
- Regarding the typical Council-led safety arrangements on event days at Wembley Stadium, it was explained that officers would monitor the stadium's

arrangements on the morning of an event, including the effectiveness of various arrangements to control crowds. As the event neared, officers would be present at the entrances to the stadium to ensure relevant safety arrangements were being undertaken safely and effectively. Once the event began, officers would monitor how attendees interacted within the stadium and how this was being managed by stewards. After the event, officers would work closely with its partners to ensure a safe flow of attendees out of the stadium.

- It was noted that the Football Association (FA), UEFA and the Metropolitan Police would all be undertaking separate reviews into what happened during the EURO 2020 Final. Partners would need time to understand the circumstances around the event and, as such, it was too early to give a view on what went wrong. A Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting would be convened on 20 July 2021 in which relevant partners would meet to discuss the event. Members were assured that relevant scrutiny would be undertaken at the appropriate time.
- The Council's operational plan for event days was signed off by the Operational Director, Environment and shared with the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council. Partners had their own operational plans which would contribute to the wider event day operation.
- In response to a question regarding alcohol consumption on event days, it was noted that Wembley Stadium was licensed to sell alcohol as soon as it opens for an event.
- The number of officers on duty at an event was determined by the risk categorisation of the event. The risk categorisation was determined by local partners and informed any decision on stewarding and policing. It was noted that there were more stewards present for the EURO 2020 Final than any other match during the tournament.
- In response to a question regarding emergency assistance at Wembley Stadium, it was noted that any injured person would receive immediate medical assistance. Should a serious injury take place within the stadium's parameters, a review would be undertaken to ascertain the circumstances of the injury and the effectiveness of the response.

Following the discussion it was **RESOLVED:**

1. That it be recommended to Cabinet;
 - (i). To hold a public review into the Council's actions taken before, during and after the Euro 2020 Final to establish the lessons learnt.
2. To make the following information requests;
 - (i). To receive a report on the outcome of the Safety Advisory Group for Wembley National Stadium meeting to be held on Tuesday 20th July 2021 at the next meeting of the Committee.

6. CCTV Deployment in Brent

Councillor Knight, Lead Member for Community Safety and Engagement, and Colin Wilderspin, Community Safety Manager, introduced a report on the provision and deployment of CCTV within Brent. The report presented information on the location of static CCTV cameras, the process for reviewing locations of cameras, the impact on savings, partnership work and the potential use of strategic CIL and other resources to fund further infrastructure.

The Committee was then invited to raise questions on the update provided, which focused on a number of key areas as highlighted below:

- It was noted that the current CCTV strategy was agreed in 2015. A revised strategy was set to be agreed in 2022, and work would begin in September 2021 to establish it. The main issues to be addressed in the revised strategy would be around integration and partnership working. The Committee was assured that the Council maintained strong working relationships with relevant partners such as the police.
- In relation to the utilisation of CCTV data, it was noted that most of the data was comparable now to what it was in 2015, although there had been a slight reduction in crime during that time. In terms of CCTV outcomes, it was noted that whilst the Council was informed of the result of high-level investigations, it was not routine for the police to share all outcomes of successful prosecutions.
- Regarding the integration of CCTV owned by Housing Associations into the borough CCTV Control Room, it was noted that a number of large Housing Associations had been engaged with to explore the possibility of such an integration. Conversations had been held with CCTV maintenance providers to ascertain the cost of integration, however it was apparent that some Housing Associations used older systems which would be costly to operate or may not be compatible. Further conversations were due to be held in September 2021.
- It was noted that CCTV at Brent Civic Centre was run by Facilities Management and fed directly into a security room at the Civic Centre rather than the borough CCTV Control Room. Regarding CCTV provision at libraries, it was noted that each library had their own provision.
- Community Protection were exploring wider uses for the borough CCTV Control Room and an options paper was being developed for Autumn/Winter 2021 for consideration as part of the revised strategy. The team were keen to explore the possibility of generating income to support its running costs and widening the integration approach.
- It was noted that static cameras were placed in areas of high crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as areas of high footfall. Crimes were still committed in those areas with static cameras, and as such they were deemed an effected means of detection. Static cameras were also generally of a better quality and led to better outcomes.
- It was noted that deployable CCTV units were regularly moved around the borough to target specific hotspots of anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping and other community safety issues. Deployment was reviewed on a monthly basis depending on intelligence and provided reassurance to residents, as well as crime prevention and detection.

- In response to a question regarding data protection, it was noted that any CCTV scheme owned and operated by the Council must comply with a number of forms of legislation including the General Data Protection Regulation 2018, Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Regulatory and Investigatory Powers Act 2000. GDPR also applied because CCTV cameras captured personal information that could identify an individual. The Council also followed a Surveillance Camera Code of Practice which provided guidance on the use of cameras.
- In relation to a question regarding public engagement in determining CCTV locations, it was noted that communities were consulted as part of the deployment planning process. For example, deployable cameras took into consideration key hotspots within the borough and the concerns of local residents. It was noted that local communities would be engaged with regarding the strategy refresh after September 2021.
- It was noted that any Council officer, police or partner agency (including Housing Associations) could submit a referral form to the Community Protection team to be assessed. Referrals were considered at monthly panel meetings.
- It was explained that CCTV alone was not a complete solution to any problem and was only one of the many measures the Council and its partners used to address issues being experienced by communities. The Council therefore had to ensure that the limited CCTV resources available were used where appropriate to the best effect.
- The locations of CCTV cameras were determined by a variety of factors. These included control room usage, enforcement usage, impact on equality, legitimate aim and pressing need (including the intensity of criminal activity in the area) and their contribution to community safety.
- In relation to the effectiveness of deployable mobile CCTV cameras, it was noted that these cameras were moved into hotspot locations as part of a response to a crime and disorder trend. The modern technology allowed for high-resolution imagery and a close operator control of mobile cameras. These cameras were most effective when used for a short period of time, for example when identifying fly tipping offenders.
- Regarding CCTV use on private property, it was noted that systems that were set up to capture only images within the boundary of a private domestic property did not need to comply with data protection laws. However, if the system captured images of people outside the boundaries of a private domestic property they should. If a CCTV user failed to comply with these laws, they may be subject to enforcement action which could involve a fine or compensation.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the following areas for improvement be noted;
 - (i). To make the annual review of CCTV deployment in Brent more accessible to the public.
 - (ii). To ensure public perception be used as a metric to determine the location CCTV cameras.
2. To make the following information requests;

- (i). To provide a timetable for the work in progress to expand the available use of CCTV in the borough.

7. Redefining Local Services

Councillor Sheth, as Lead Member for Environment, introduced a report on the final delivery model for the Redefining Local Services (RLS) programme ahead of its Cabinet approval in August. The report presented both the result of a consultation on delivery model options for how the services in the scope of the programme would be commissioned and delivered, as well as the proposed overarching RLS delivery model.

The Committee was then invited to raise questions on the update provided, which focused on a number of key areas as highlighted below:

- A question was raised regarding the key opportunities for aligning the provision of the Special Needs Transport (SNT) Inter-Authority Agreement with Harrow Council with the RLS programme. It was noted that this related to the opportunity to relocate busses from Harrow to Brent depots to reduce journey time and running costs, and the coordinated management of a council-owned fleet should the RLS programme lead to more insourcing in the future.
- Commercial and business waste collections are included in the Public Realm contract and the proposed competitive dialogue process will help us identify the best solution for this sector.
- In response to a question regarding fleet procurement, it was noted that all options were under consideration, including the use of electric vehicles, which would take into account both the economic and environmental priorities of the Council. Regarding the procurement of a waste and recycling fleet specifically, it was explained that all companies engaged with would prefer the Council to purchase the fleet, with the contractor to specify, procure and maintain the fleet at their own risk. This was largely due to the favourable borrowing rates in the public sector compared to the private sector. There was no operational need to replace the SNT fleet because it had only recently been replaced by Harrow Council and complied with all standards.
- Concerning insourcing, it was noted that the Council had considered this as an alternative delivery model. There were a variety of reasons as to why this was not deemed suitable, including financial viability. The additional recurring revenue cost above current budgets was estimated as over £11 million and, while it would enable a fully integrated neighbourhood delivery, it was considered unaffordable given the Council's current and predicted finances.
- It was noted that a clean and green environment was a key priority for the RLS programme and every opportunity was being explored to ensure that future services and depot arrangements were aligned to the Council's commitments to tackle the climate emergency, air pollution, waste and enhance green spaces and biodiversity.
- In response to a question regarding local employment, it was noted that the RLS programme would deliver better Social Value outcomes via the

Council's Social and Ethical Procurement Policy including opportunities for local suppliers and jobs for local people.

- It was noted that three out of 19 invited individuals attended the residents and service users' focus group session in the evening of 16 June 2021, which was run by officers and attended by the Cabinet Member for Environment. It was accepted that this turnout was low, especially in comparison to online consultation, and that more needed to be done to ensure a higher turnout in the future. Members were advised that the focus groups were over and above the statutory consultation requirements and assured that, despite the low turnout, the conversations had were constructive and that the views of those in attendance were in alignment with the feedback from the online consultation.
- It was proposed that a further stage of consultation with the public would be undertaken this autumn on future street cleansing, waste collections and winter services, which would comprise an online consultation questionnaire, Brent Connects sessions, a session with businesses and local third sector organisations and resident focus groups with randomly selected residents.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the following areas for improvement be noted;
 - (i). To consider small and medium-sized enterprises and community and voluntary organisations for delivery contracts.
 - (ii). To review the first consultation process being undertaken on delivery model options and endeavour to improve the process going forward.
 - (iii). To ensure that biodiversity and habitat concerns be prioritised in the delivery model.
 - (iv). To further examine the effect of Brent's pension costs on insourcing.
 - (v). To review the current arrangements for special needs transport and to identify areas of improvement.
2. To make the following information requests;
 - (i). To provide a view on the financial impact of insourcing.

9. **Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2021-22**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2021-22 be agreed.

10. **Budget Scrutiny Task Group**

It was **RESOLVED** that a Budget Scrutiny Task Group be established with the following members:

- (i). Councillor Mashari
- (ii). Councillor Kansagra
- (iii). Councillor Ketan Sheth
- (iv). Councillor Thakkar
- (v). Councillor Kabir
- (vi). Councillor Hylton

- (vii). Councillor Long
- (viii). Councillor Georgiou
- (ix). Councillor Choudhary
- (x). Councillor Johnson

11. Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker

The Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker table, which tracks the progress of recommendations made by the Committee, was noted.

12. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions was noted.

13. Any other urgent business

Councillor Hassan raised an issue regarding the recent flooding in Kilburn. She raised concern regarding the effectiveness of communication from the Council to its residents, including the availability of the customer services telephone line. Members agreed to consider the issue of flood management at a later meeting of the Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

R MASHARI
Chair