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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 14TH JANUARY, 2019, 19.00-21.40hrs.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Lucia das Neves (Chair), Pippa Connor (Vice-Chair), Mahir Demir, Ruth Gordon and Adam Jogee

Co-optees: Mark Chapman, Luci David and Yvonne Denny

5. FILMING AT MEETINGS

Noted.

6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jogee declared an interest in respect of item 10 on the agenda, as he was the EU Nationals Ambassador.

9. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None.

10. MINUTES

The Chair noted that there were quite a few outstanding actions, and having discussed with the Committee it was felt that going forward, the Committee needed to be more stringent with setting deadlines for reports coming back to Overview and Scrutiny, or at least a response as to why it may not be possible to provide a report.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 19 November 2018 and 6 December 2018 be approved as a correct record.

11. MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL MEETINGS

The Committee noted the minutes of the Scrutiny Panels. The Chair referred to the green flag reports for parks, and standards of parks and requested that this was

investigated further as part of the work of the Environment and Community Safety Panel.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Scrutiny Panels be noted.

12. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS - CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC REGENERATION

Councillor Adje – Cabinet Member for Strategic Regeneration – provided a brief outline of his recent Cabinet activities. He and the Leader had met with the Haringey Business Alliance to discuss the development of a business pledge. The Haringey Business Alliance were pleased with the pledge, and were happy that the Council was engaging with businesses in a meaningful way. Further work would be undertaken in relation to formally recognising businesses which made a positive contribution locally and borough-wide. There was a focus on employment and apprenticeships for local residents.

Councillor Adje responded to questions from the Committee:

- Adult Education was not broken down into people with or without disabilities, and there was a wide range of initiatives available. Councillor Adje would provide the prospectus of the team to the Committee.
- The Council were looking to work with all businesses to identify barriers to trading, and to encourage growth where possible. The main places being targeted were Tottenham High Road and Wood Green High Road. One strategy was to encourage the letting of empty premises on a meanwhile basis so that there were fewer empty premises along the high roads.
- Officers had been requested to review the Business Strategy as a whole, and to identify what was working, and to build on these, and to remove the strategies which did not work. A briefing on the 'quick-wins' could be provided.

Actions:

- Councillor Adje to provide information on education available for adults, and whether specific programmes were available for those with disabilities.
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee members to be invited to attend walk-about sessions with Councillor Adje when looking at the high roads and local businesses.
- Councillor Adje to provide information on meanwhile uses for empty premises – whether there was a strategy, and why the Council want to use empty properties in that way.
- Councillor Adje to provide information on funding for HEST apprenticeships, and the Council's approach to apprenticeships.
- Councillor Adje to provide an overview of business support, including results so far from the review.

The Chair thanked Councillor Adje for attending.

13. BUDGET SCRUTINY - PRIORITY X

Clerks note: The Chair varied the order of the agenda to take item 10 before item 9. The minutes follow the order of the agenda.

Councillor Connor in the Chair

Richard Grice – Director for Customers, Transformation and Resources – and Councillor Tucker – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Insourcing – provided an update on the budget proposals for Priority X.

The total savings for Priority X were small as the bulk of savings had been made in previous budgets. 95% of the savings were being achieved in two programmes of work. The Front Office and Back Office (FOBO) programme would look at the processes and systems which support the way the organisation works. This was a significant programme of change, and would involve reviewing processes, removing unnecessary changes, and replacing with automation in some cases. It was likely that this would result in a loss of around 100 posts. The other savings programme was the vacation and re-letting of office space in Alexandra House. This was a challenging target, but should save £1m, although it was noted that the savings would not be realised until the space had been let.

The Council were also looking at how insourcing would work in the organisation, and it was acknowledged that if more services were directly provided, there would be more opportunities available to redeploy staff who had been affected by other budget cuts.

In regard to advertising, there was a new contract for street furniture advertising, which had been let en-bloc, so the income would be provided up front. The income for future years had been estimated based on potential new street furniture becoming available for advertising.

The Committee requested the following:

- An update to be provided on the FOBO programme as a whole – which roles were likely to be cut, how the staff could be redeployed, the timeline for the programme, and how / when it would be appropriate for Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be involved. This was requested for the end of March 2019.
- Information to be provided on staff insourcing – the financial implications and when it would be appropriate for Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be involved.
- For the OSC agenda pack for 28 January to include the previous savings for Priority x, proposed savings for 19/20, and the total of these, along with the Capital information which had been provided in the Cabinet papers.
- For clarification on whether the capital spend on the IT and buildings upgrade was for buildings or for IT.
- Further information to be provided on raising revenues through libraries, and the radical ways of working programme.

The Chair thanked all for attending.

14. HARINGEY BREXIT PREPAREDNESS

Joe McBride - Leader & Cabinet Support Team Manager – introduced the report as set out. The Chief Executive had tasked a working group of officers to consider the key areas and services which could be affected by Brexit. Coporate Board had agreed that the Council would pay the fee for the application for settled citizenship status for Council staff. The Leader had written to all EU residents in the Borough, and Councillor Jogee had been appointed the EU Citizens Ambassador. Regular conversations were taking place with London Councils and the Home Office in relation to community cohesion, and a local resident meeting had been arranged for 4 February 2019.

Joe McBride responded to questions from the Committee:

- The cost to the Council of paying the settled citizenship status fee would be around £20,000 – a commitment had been made that these fund would be made available.
- The Council were applying to the Home Office for a grant to fund schemes to raise awareness of the resettlement process, and to highlight this to people who do not access Council services, or feel that they do not have to go through the process. Marcus Garvey and Wood Green libraries had been identified for suitable hubs to provide help and guidance on completing the online application.
- FAQs would be provided to residents at the public meeting on 4 February – this information can also be made available for Councillors.
- The Director for Finance was exploring current government funding and assessing the impact that Brexit could have on the borough – this could be shared with the Committee at their meeting in April.

Action: Clerk

The Chair thanked all for attending.

15. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Joanna Sumner – Assistant Director for Strategy and Communications – introduced the report as set out. She explained that it had been anticipated that the work would have been more fully formed, however the development of the Fairness Commission had taken priority over other areas. The implementation of the Fairness Commission would be used to inform how the Council approached consultation and engagement. A resident engagement pledge had been reproduced in the Borough Plan, and a residents panel would be set up to explore this further.

The Committee requested that a further report be provided to the Committee when more information was available.

The Chair thanked Joanna Sumner for attending.

16. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

RESOLVED that:

- i. The work programmes for the main Committee and Scrutiny Panels at Appendix A be noted;
- ii. The scope and terms of reference of the reviews by the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel review on Special Education Needs and Disability (Appendix B), and the Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel on Plastic Waste (Appendix C) be approved; and
- iii. Councillor Culverwell be appointed as a replacement for Councillor James on the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel.

17. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

18. FUTURE MEETINGS

CHAIR: Councillor Lucia das Neves

Signed by Chair

Date

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