

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 December 2009
Committee Room 1, Newham Town Hall, East Ham, E6 2RP**

Present: Councillor Ted Sparrowhawk(Chair);
Councillors Freda Bourne and Pearson Shillingford

Co-opted Members (Voting):
Ms Ellen Kemp, Panel Member

Apologies for absence: Councillors Kevin Jenkins OBE, Marie Collier,
Winston Vaughan and Steve Wilson (Co-Opted Member)

Apologies due to other Council business: None.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m.and closed at 8.45 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTION / WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting.

2. MANAGEMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

The Chair agreed with Members the arrangement of the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2009 were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising from these minutes.

5. SWINE FLU AND SEASONAL FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Helen Page, the Assistant Director of Public Health, NHS Newham, attended the meeting. She presented a verbal report outlining the swine flu vaccination programme. She explained that it's a national programme which began in October

2009. All NHS frontline staff, both clinical and non clinical, have been offered the vaccination. In Newham the swine flu vaccination programme is undertaken by a roaming vaccination team and a staff vaccination team at East Ham Care Centre. The service was being expanded to four pharmacy practices in the borough who will offer the vaccine to staff and certain at risk patient groups.

We were advised that the Phase 1 of the national programme is underway with all GP practices in Newham having received 500 doses of the vaccine and that GPs are contacting people (over 6 months of age) on their patient register who meet the high risk criteria. These include pregnant women and people who have a long term health condition. All healthy children between the ages of 6 months and five years will be offered the vaccine as part of phase 2. We were informed that uptake of seasonal flu is roughly about 74% nationally and that the Department of Health hope to mirror this for H1N1- swine flu vaccine.

The Committee made a number of comments regarding the H1N1- swine flu and seasonal flu vaccination programme. These comments were:

- Anecdotally the Committee were aware that a large proportion of the population with a long term health condition, e.g. Diabetes mellitus, have not been made aware that they are in one of the groups that should receive the vaccination.
- There has been both adverse and negative publicity about the H1N1- swine flu vaccination programme and a general lack of publicity, which has contributed to low uptake of the vaccine.
- There is a lot of confusion about the H1N1- swine flu and the seasonal flu vaccination programme and whether one or both sets of vaccinations were required by people who are in the high risk criteria and most vulnerable
- to use 'swine flu stickers' on repeat prescriptions to promote the H1N1- swine flu vaccination and to remind people to make an appointment with their GP to be vaccinated
- The Committee requested that the Assistant Director of Public Health draft a one page briefing note for Members setting out relevant information about H1N1- swine flu and the seasonal flu vaccination programme.

Decision

The Committee:

- (i) thanked Helen Page, the Assistant Director of Public Health, NHS Newham, for attending the meeting; and**
- (ii) requested that Helen Page draft a one page briefing note for Members setting out relevant information about H1N1- swine flu and the seasonal flu vaccination programme.**

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

Newham Sustainable Community Strategy –Draft Document for Consultation

David Hodgkins, Head of Corporate Planning and Partnerships, presented the Newham Sustainable Community Strategy. The strategy provides the overarching vision for how the Council and partner organisations wish to improve the borough and the quality of life for residents. The Strategy also sets out at a strategic level how partners intend to achieve this in the coming years and ensure that any outcomes are sustainable. The Strategy is owned by the Local Strategic Partnership (Newham Partnership) and it forms the framework for the Local Area Agreement, which is the detailed programme of actions to deliver the vision for Newham. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is consulted on any policy framework documents in advance of consideration by the Mayor and Cabinet.

The Committee made a number of comments for reporting to the Mayor and Cabinet at the Cabinet meeting on 21 January, 2010. These comments were:

- Broader consultation should be undertaken to promote the ambitions of the borough with emphasis on how quality of life, particularly for young people, will be improved in Newham over the next five years. The Council and its partners should be consulting young people about their aspirations for Newham. The Strategy should address this.
- There should be clear actions and measurable milestones to ensure the strategy is delivered.

Decision

The Committee:

Agreed to endorse the report for consideration by Cabinet on 21 January 2010 and refer it to Full Council. The Chair to verbally report the Committee's more specific comments on the strategy to Cabinet.

7. PERFORMANCE AND BUDGET MONITOR REPORT FOR QUARTER TWO 2009/10

John Turnbull, Divisional Director of Finance, introduced the report which provided a summary of how the council has performed between August and September 2009 and highlighted a number of key issues for Members to note.

The overall performance of the council, as measured by the direction of travel of the 35 Local Area Agreement indicators, showed that more LAA indicators

were improving.

The Chair welcomed the report which combined budget and performance information. He asked if future quarterly budget and performance reports could include details of the milestones for the stages in implementing each Mayoral promise and key action in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Decision

The Committee welcomed the report and noted the Council's performance against key performance indicators and budget, and the management actions being taken to improve performance and mitigate financial risks.

8. COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION

The Committee received a report outlining details of Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) and a draft CCfA procedure for the London Borough of Newham.

The CCfA is a provision contained within the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. It is designed to help Members solve problems in their wards and it came into effect in April 2009. We were advised that the procedure for CCfA is developed in the context of existing policy around petitions, complaints, the scrutiny work programme and Freedom of Information and to be applied as a last resort when all other attempts at resolution have failed.

Decision

The Committee agreed approve the Councillor Call for Action procedure appended to this report.

9. FINAL SCRUTINY COMMISSION REPORTS

Reason for urgency:

To ensure that the final scrutiny commission reports are considered by the Mayor in consultation with the Cabinet on 21 January 2010. The next Scheduled meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held on 26 January 2010.

9a. Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission (Sports Opportunities for Young people)

The Committee received the final draft report of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission (Sports Opportunities for Young people) for approval.

Decision

The Committee agreed to;

- (i) support the recommendations of the final report of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission (Sports Opportunities for Young people); and**
- (ii) refer the report to the Mayor, in consultation with the Cabinet, for consideration on 21 January 2010.**

9b. Employing Disabled People Scrutiny Commission.

The Committee received the final draft report of the Employing Disabled People Scrutiny Commission (Sports Opportunities for Young people) for approval.

Decision

The Committee agreed to;

- (i) support the recommendations of the final report of the Employing Disabled People Scrutiny Commission; and**
- (ii) refer the report to the Mayor, in consultation with the Cabinet, for consideration on 21 January 2010.**

9b. Employing Disabled People Scrutiny Commission.

The Committee received the final draft report of the Employing Disabled People Scrutiny Commission (Sports Opportunities for Young people) for approval.

Decision

The Committee agreed to;

- (i) support the recommendations of the final report of the Employing Disabled People Scrutiny Commission; and**
- (ii) refer the report to the Mayor, in consultation with the Cabinet, for consideration on 21 January 2010.**

9d. Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Commission (CCTV)

Decision

The Committee agreed to defer the final draft report of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Commission (CCTV) to our meeting on 4 January 2010.

10. INITIAL FINDINGS OF THE AGEING WELL IN NEWHAM, ENERGY SUPPLY IN NEWHAM AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMISSIONS' REVIEWS

This report sets out the initial findings reports for the following three scrutiny Commissions

- A. Aging Well in Newham
- B. Energy Supply in Newham
- C. Health Scrutiny Commission (Children and Young People with Diabetes in Newham)

Decision

The Committee agreed:

The Committee agreed:

- (i) **approves the three scrutiny commission reports appended to this report which set out the initial findings on ageing well, energy supply, and children with diabetes respectively; and**
- (ii) **to undertake further scrutiny work on these topics following the Municipal Elections in May 2010.**

11. THE EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - EDITION 92 PERIOD 1ST JANUARY TO 30TH APRIL, 2010

Members noted the Executive Forward Plan, edition 92. The Plan had been previously circulated to Members under separate cover.

Decision

The Committee agreed that Members should contact Officers in the Overview and Scrutiny Unit if they wished to raise any issues relating to the Executive Forward Plan.

12. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TIMETABLE AND WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

The Committee received a report of the Interim Head of Overview and Scrutiny which set out the timetable and work programme for 2009-10.

Decision

The Committee agreed the timetable and work programme for the municipal year 2009 -10, as set out in the Appendix to the report.

13. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The Committee noted the following dates of future meetings, commencing at 7.00 p.m. Tuesday 26 January and 23 February 2010.

The Acting Deputy Head Overview and Scrutiny reported that an additional meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday 4 January 2010 to consider the following reports:

- (a) Forest Gate Supplementary Planning Document
- (b) Final Scrutiny Commission Reports:
 - Crime and Disorder – CCTV
 - Charging and Income

Members agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 4 January 2010 will commence at the conclusion the Scrutiny Budget Working Party, which ever is the latest.