

Community Safety and Environment Policy and Accountability Committee Minutes

Tuesday 3 July 2018

PRESENT

Committee members: Councillors Bora Kwon (Chair), Iain Cassidy, David Morton, Ann Rosenberg, and Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler

Other Councillors: Councillors Wesley Harcourt and Belinda Donovan

Officers: Nick Austin (Director of Resident Services) and Valerie Simpson (Bi-Borough Head of Environmental Health)

1. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler was elected as Vice-Chair of the Community Safety and Environment Policy and Accountability Committee for the 2018-19 Municipal Year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2015 were approved.

5. AN INTRODUCTION TO SCRUTINY IN HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

The Chair said that this briefing note gave an overview of the role of scrutiny, how it worked, how to ensure it was effective, and the remit of the committee.

This item was noted for information only.

6. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

Valerie Simpson (Bi-Borough Head of Environmental Health) gave a presentation outlining the main changes made to the Council's statement of gambling policy (SGP), the timeline for consultation and the issues for consideration. She noted that the policy must be reviewed and publicly consulted upon, every three years. It was time for the policy to be reviewed and undergo a public consultation exercise so that the latest version would be agreed by Full Council in October 2018 and published at the beginning of January 2019.

The policy had been revised to reflect legal and other changes. In addition, it emphasised the gambling commission's codes of practice, particularly those referring to the protection of children and vulnerable people. The draft revised SGP 2019 had been prepared and was currently the subject of a 12-week public consultation.

Valerie Simpson explained that three statutory licensing objectives had been included in the policy. These considered preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, ensuring that gambling was conducted in a fair and open way and protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

Councillor David Morton said that it was necessary to contact resident associations within the borough to understand their expectations and for this to be logged and recorded. He said that he would provide details to Valerie Simpson on who should be consulted.

Valerie Simpson said that many adult gaming centres had changed into bingo premises. This allowed the entitlement for other categories of machines on the premises and allowed the sale of alcohol which was prohibited within adult gaming centre premises. Councillor David Morton asked what the Council's policy was on casino licences. Nick Austin (Director of Resident Services) explained that the Council had a no casino resolution in this borough and this would be refreshed as part of the next policy.

The Chair noted that Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) was referred to frequently throughout the presentation, compared to child truancy and questioned if this was a growing concern within the borough. Valerie Simpson said that the Council wanted to emphasise CSE concerns as there had been indications that incidents could be linked to licensed establishments, although the team were not aware of any specific reports, in the borough. Additionally, this was an ongoing concern nationwide.

Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler expressed her concerns around the sale of alcohol permitted at bingo premises and asked whether spot checks

were carried out to monitor and identify the risks involved. Valerie Simpson said that officers regularly visited high risk premises to ensure that operators were being responsible and adhering to licence conditions. Furthermore, spot checks recently took place in conjunction with the gambling commission and this was something that officers were keen to continue going forward.

7. WORK PROGRAMMING 2018/19

The Chair welcomed the Committee to consider its work programme for 2018/19. Nick Austin provided an overview of the key priorities for the service and noted that there were some items from the previous work programme that had not been considered in 2017/18 such as parks police and electrical vehicle charging points.

He also noted that a report on recycling would be brought to a future meeting subject to the approval of the Chair and Councillor Wesley Harcourt. This would provide an overview on the Council's plan for recycling, the issues it faced and options on how this would be improved.

Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler noted that she would like a discussion around street scene and pavements, particularly around the Council's weed killing strategy. She explained that residents had complained about the amount of weed on the pavements. In addition, she noted that fly tipping had increased within the borough, therefore the strategy for this should also be reviewed. Nick Austin said that weed control on pavements was an issue across the borough and agreed that a report would be brought to a future Committee for consideration. Furthermore, it was important that the concerns of residents were addressed and therefore, noted that he would bring a presentation on comparatives around different techniques that could be used to tackle this issue. Councillor Wesley Harcourt said that the Council used a product called Glyphosate to kill weeds in the past, however this was stopped due to the toxic effects associated with this to residents.

Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler also noted that she was keen to discuss the Council's gritting policy in further detail and what actions were taken to minimise the risks during snowfall. She said that pavements were dangerous around this time of the year as snow eventually turned into ice and posed a danger to residents. Councillor Wesley Harcourt said that schools across the borough closed last year due to the weather conditions and agreed that the policy needed further exploration to ensure appropriate measures were in place.

Cllr Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler said that she would like to review the parks and open spaces policy, including the overall strategy for dog bins. This should be widened to include normal waste bins in parks, graffiti removal, public toilets and the Council's pest policy.

Councillor Ann Rosenberg noted that she was contacted by residents in relation to the electrical car charging points and was keen to discuss the Council's approach to electrical vehicle charging points in further detail. In

addition, she would like a discussdiscussion around the progress made and what plans were in place for the future.

The Chair explained that the main focus for the Septemeber PAC would be on crime and security as this had not been a key area for discussion in the past. She said that she would like to see a report on the Council's strategy around it's CCTV network, moped and bike crime. Additionally, she would like an overview around crime and disorder, including a presentation on the Council's key priorities. She requested that Councillor Sue Fennimore (Deputy Leader) and third sector organisations be invited to the September PAC meeting to discuss this in further detail. Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler asked that the discussion also referenced ward panels.

Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler noted that parking also needed reviewing. She was keen to explore the financial implications of the parking system and comparisons between Ringo and other operators. Furthermore, she also mentioned telephone parking, visitor permits and 20p zones and the effects of 20mp zones on traffic flow, including the accident rates in the borough before and after the introduction of 20mph.

Meeting started: 7:00pm
Meeting ended: 8:15pm

Chair

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