

Transport, Environment and Residents Services Select Committee Minutes

Monday 4 November 2013

PRESENT

Committee members: Councillors Steve Hamilton (Chairman), Robert Iggulden, Wesley Harcourt (Vice-Chairman), Lisa Homan, Jane Law, Gavin Donovan, Michael Adam and Iain Coleman

Other Councillors: Councillor Matt Thorley

Officers: David Taylor, Head of Parking Services, Natalie Luck, Head of Accessible Transport, Paul Slowey, BBFI, Janette Mullins, Head of Litigation and Kathy May, Head of Waste and Street Scene Enforcement

11. MINUTES AND ACTIONS

Councillor Iggulden asked for a response on matters raised on the Markets Service Review.

RESOLVED THAT

The minutes of the meeting on the 9th September 2013 be agreed.

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor De Lisle.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14. BLUE BADGE ENFORCEMENT

The Committee received a report on enforcement activity against fraudulent and misuse of disabled parking (Blue) badges. The report was presented by David Taylor, Head of Parking Services, Natalie Luck, Head of Accessible Transport, and Paul Slowey, from the Council's contractor, BBFI. The Committee heard that, following the opening of the Westfield Shopping Centre, the Council had received an increased volume of complaints about Blue Badge fraud and misuse. The Council had engaged on a trial basis, and, after the success of that trial, had entered into a contract. After initial use of surveillance, BBFI had focused on joint operations with the Police. Paul Slowey gave a short presentation on the type of offences detected, including operations at football matches and at Westfield. He noted that fraud had considerably reduced in the light of earlier operations, though levels of misuse in the borough were very high, and were high across London. Finally, he stressed the value of joint working with the Police, with other offences often

The Committee asked questions regarding the price of a stolen badge, the process for awarding a blue badge, the appeals process for residents denied a Blue Badge, the use of CCTV in monitoring misuse, costs of prosecutions and use of barristers, circumstances under which a pass was confiscated from a user, how out of borough offenders were treated, how officers treated individuals under suspicion given their vulnerability, how officers treated reports from the public and how they communicated the results to individuals who had made a report, possible alternative sanctions and the removal of vehicles.

The Committee thanked the officers and Mr Slowey for the presentation, welcoming the work done in combating fraud and misuse and the attitude shown to the vulnerable groups that the service came into contact with.

15. WESTERN RIVERSIDE WASTE AUTHORITY (WRWA) GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Committee received a report regarding the review of the Western Riverside Waste Authority. Kathy May, Head of Waste and Street-Scene Enforcement, introduced the report, stating that the purpose of the review was two-fold, looking at governance and communications and financial and contractual arrangements. The report included the independent review

In response to a question regarding the impetus for the review, Ms. May said that papers were often dispatched late, and were extremely technical, making it difficult for members to digest them. The Committee agreed that, given the input of the Council's nominees was crucial to understanding the issues, they would ask Councillor Greg Smith to comment at a future meeting.

16. BI BOROUGH WASTE AND STREET ENFORCEMENT SERVICE REVIEW UPDATE

The Committee received a report on the Bi-Borough Service Review of Waste and Street Scene Enforcement, presented by Kathy May, Head of Waste and Street Scene Enforcement. The review covered a wide service area, and had identified, in addition to potential savings, a number of areas for improvement through adoption of best practice and joint working. Proposed areas of improvement included increased use of mobile technology, the introduction of generic roles including monitoring and enforcement in Hammersmith & Fulham and the use of a projects officer.

The Committee asked questions on reporting arrangements for merged services, packaging reduction, the licensing of tables and chairs and Groundwork. The Committee questioned what arrangements were in place to ensure sovereignty as Bi-Borough working deepened and would have welcomed feedback from the relevant Cabinet Members on this point.

The Committee supported the introduction of a projects officer, funding permitting, supported the introduction of a food waste recycling scheme for restaurant trade waste, and requested that housing officers be included in the case conferences mentioned in 4.5 of the report.

17. WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN

The Committee noted the proposed work programme. Councillor Iggulden suggested that school travel plans and the shared use of schools' sports pitches should be examined at a future meeting.

18. POTENTIAL EXTENSION OF SERCO WASTE CONTRACT

The Committee received a report prior to the Cabinet meeting on the 11th November outlining a proposed extension of the SERCO contract.

RESOLVED THAT

The report be noted.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on 13 January 2013.

20. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED THAT

Under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business, on the grounds that they contain the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the said

Act, and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption currently outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

21. **POTENTIAL EXTENSION OF SERCO WASTE CONTRACT- EXEMPT ASPECTS**

RESOLVED THAT

The report be noted.

Meeting started: 7.00 pm
Meeting ended: 8.35 pm

Chairman

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