

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 14TH JULY, 2016

- Councillors Present:** Cllr Jessica Webb in the Chair
- Cllr Katie Hanson, Cllr Christopher Kennedy,
Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Clare Potter,
Cllr Nick Sharman and Cllr Vincent Stops
- Apologies:** Councillors Susan Fajana-Thomas and
Vincent Stop
- Officers in Attendance:** Stephen Rix (Legal Services); Aleyne Fontenelle
(Head of Projects and Regulatory Services); Natalie
Broughton (Strategic Policy Manager); Jacob Tong
(Monitoring and Research Officer)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fajana-Thomas and Stops.
- 1.2 Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Kennedy and Potter.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - MEMBERS TO DECLARE AS APPROPRIATE

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3 CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 3.1 The previous minutes of the meetings held on 18 February 2016, 25 May 2016 and 8 June 2016 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

Matters arising

- 3.2 Annual report of the Community Safety Team and Noise Nuisance – Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2016
Councillor Hanson referred to paragraph 4.10 of the minutes of the previous meeting and requested an update in respect of the register of construction waivers.
- 3.3 Corporate Committee Report Template - Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2016
With regard to paragraph 5.10, Councillor Sharman indicated that the report template should reflect the requirements of the Corporate Committee. It was

agreed that the Chair in conjunction with Councillor Sharman and relevant officers would review the report template.

4 FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN 2016/17

- 4.1 Aleyne Fontenelle, Head of Projects and Regulatory Services introduced the report on the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan (FLESP). The plan sets out the inspection programme for the Borough's food premises for 2016/17 and as of 1 April 2016 has 1024 food hygiene and 1157 food standards interventions due. The performance of the Food Safety Service was measured against its fulfilment of the Plan and the percentage of broadly compliant premises within the Borough. Ms Fontenelle highlighted that 84% of premises were broadly compliant, an increase from the previous year and training had been delivered to new businesses with further training to raise awareness of food safety. The Business Compliance Consultancy Service would provide additional services beyond the statutory service to local businesses. Ms Fontenelle summarised the areas for development and improvement over the next two years including ICT, partnership work and joined up interventions.
- 4.2 Councillor Hanson commented on Hackney Service Centre's (HSC) food rating score and asked how Hackney Council compared with other London boroughs in respect of premises broadly compliant with food hygiene. Ms Fontenelle stated that HSC had in fact received a three star rating for food hygiene and that Hackney Council was part of North-East Sector London Food Liaison Group and regularly engaged in benchmarking exercises with other boroughs. Ms Fontenelle stated that Hackney ranked within the upper quartile of authorities enforcing food safety and the Food Standards Agency findings of the Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS) report would be incorporated within next year's report.

ACTION: Ms Fontenelle will circulate the LAEMS report to Members when it becomes available and also incorporate the findings into the next report to be submitted at a future meeting.

- 4.3 Councillor Sharman asked about the risks to the Council of the premises that were non-compliant with food safety; how the Council planned to meet the service challenges following a 17% rise in the number of food businesses in the Borough; whether the operational issues that had prevented phase 3 of the Tackling Food Fraud Project had been resolved; and setting clear targets and achievements to develop the service.
- 4.4 Ms Fontenelle stated that 14% of premises that were identified as non-compliant with food safety had failed the structure component of the assessment. To improve compliance rates in future the Council would be monitoring the three areas of hygiene, structure and food management in order to identify and target support to businesses. The Council was also promoting the Food and Hygiene Rating system to improve compliance and working with businesses through a range of interventions to raise awareness and bring about behavioural change. Enforcement action was available against those businesses that persistently failed to comply.

- 4.5 With regard to the demand on the service due to an increase in food businesses in the borough, the service's approach had been to focus on higher risk premises and conduct partial inspections on broadly compliant category C premises. However, the service would be moving towards a cross cutting enforcement model which would include secondary inspections that would improve the Council's enforcement functions ensuring effective and targeted enforcement in that the Service was working jointly with other services such as Environmental Enforcement to promote compliance. The Council was also working jointly with other services such as Environmental Enforcement to promote compliance.
- 4.6 Ms Fontenelle advised that Phase 3 of the Tackling Food Fraud Project had stalled due to concerns regarding intelligence gathering and would hopefully resume at the end of 2016. The project was currently being reviewed and the Council was examining alternative means of gathering further intelligence, which could involve further partnership working, intelligence gathering from other agencies and the use of directed surveillance.
- 4.7 Ms Fontenelle referred the Committee to the Annual Food Service performance data set out in paragraph 6.4.1 of the report and stated that as part of the six month review, targets would be incorporated in the data update in December 2016.
- 4.8 The Chair referred to Effective Partnership Working and asked what had been identified as 'nuisance'. Ms Fontenelle advised that officers were currently working with other services to identify the causes of nuisance in relation to commercial noise, odour control and waste management and on a project to monitor carbon monoxide in certain food businesses. Partnership with other external agencies was also taking place and the findings of the project would be available in December 2016.
- 4.9 Councillor Ozsen asked if the inspections of small business also examined at a product's supply chain. Ms Fontenelle explained that as part of Hackney Council's or the national sampling programme, samples were regularly taken during inspections and visits. The service focused on food traceability during small business inspections and certificates had to be provided for imported foods. The service also participated in the London Food Co-Ordinating Group that determined the samplings to be undertaken in London.
- 4.10 Councillor Ozsen asked about food fraud, in particular the mislabelling of imported food in particular meat products and the length of time taken to produce sample reports. Ms Fontenelle said that some meats were sold through brokers and difficult to trace however, the Council carried out random sampling to ensure that foods were correctly labelled. The Council had a service agreement in place to have analysis results within 6 to 8 weeks on average and the public analyst service was governed by legislation to ensure accuracy. Sample testing cost as much as £200 per sample and due to the costs any decision for testing was taken by the food safety service on risk basis.
- 4.11 Councillor Kennedy enquired about the action taken against takeaways near schools and if the recent change in legislation had contributed to businesses failing the food inspection. Ms Fontenelle advised that the Healthy Catering

Commitment project would be continuing to target takeaways that were located close to schools and it had been identified that the higher failure rate was often due to businesses locating into unsuitable premises, and work was being undertaken to address this issue.

RESOLVED to:

- 1. approve the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2016/17;**
- 2. approve the level and scope of work being carried out to meet the requirements of the plan.**

5 PLANNING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT/AUTHORITY MONITORING REPORT

- 5.1 Natalie Broughton, Strategic Policy Manager, introduced the report on the Local Plan Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) for 2015. Ms Broughton summarised the key findings of the AMR including the key challenges in relation to Housing, Employment, Retail and Town Centres, Communities, Culture, Education and Health, Transport, Open spaces Environment and Climate Change, Heritage and Design and Planning Performance.
- 5.2 Councillor Kennedy requested that paragraph 8.26 at page 139 of the report be amended to further clarify whether the new school sites were temporary sites and whether the proposed school completion in 2017 was realistic as a feasibility study had yet to be undertaken. Ms Broughton indicated that she would seek clarification regarding the sites and completion date and also proposed to delete part of the paragraph.
- 5.3 Councillor Sharman welcomed the references to the new local plan (LP33) and asked for additional references to be made in the document. Councillor Sharman also asked what measures would be taken to ensure the Council aimed to achieve its objectively assessed need for 60% of new housing to be social rented; how the Council's new Local Plan intended to protect employment floor space; consider alternative funding to meet the infrastructure needs of the borough in addition to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL); with a total of 4.4m entries/exits at stations in 2015, whether the Council had any strategies in place to address future pressures on transport; and limiting construction of tall buildings in the borough.
- 5.4 Ms Broughton responded to the points as follows:
 - Housing: The need to provide 60% of new housing as social housing is based on strategic housing market assessments (2015) as part of the evidence base for the new local plan. This amount represents the ideal level of affordable housing regardless of national and regional planning policy, which balance affordable housing against viability and other concerns, and this information would form a key part of the affordable housing target set out in the new local plan. Mr Tong indicated that further information on how the target would be achieved was available at paragraph 5.1 at page 102 of the report.
 - Employment: With regard to the challenges in loss of employment floorspace, Ms Broughton advised the strategic policy team was currently undertaking an Employment Land Study (ELS) to determine the supply and demand for new floorspace and key trends and will play a key role in

employment policies in the Local Plan. Mr Tong highlighted that a large number of planning permissions had been approved for B1 Class (Office), especially in the Shoreditch area, and when these applications were implemented there would be a significant increase office floor space.

- Communities, Culture, Education and Health: Ms Broughton stated that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) had been incorporated in to the Local Plan. While there was currently a shortfall in CIL funding, as more developments commenced more funding would be collected which would reduce the shortfall.
- Transport: It was reported that Transport Officers were examining the provision of transport and addressing the projected higher demand for public transport in the future. In addition, the proposed Crossrail 2 was expected to meet some of the future demand as well as improving connectivity and facilitating growth.
- Heritage and Design: Ms Broughton stated that through the Local Plan the Council would continue to monitor the number of planning permissions granted for tall buildings in the borough and the effectiveness of Hackney's Tall Buildings strategy. It was noted that a boroughwide Characterisation Study would be undertaken in order to inform future policies on tall buildings.

- 5.5 Councillor Ozsen enquired about the plans to create employment opportunities and education programmes for young people in the borough and an affordable community infrastructure for local people. Ms Broughton advised that planning obligations are sought for employment and education opportunities through the Planning Obligations SPD with funding secured from the section 106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy. Mr Tong indicated that the AMR recorded that in 2014/15 the council received £168,905.53 in payments relating to Employment and Job Creation and £365,232.08 for education and training from previously signed S106 agreements.
- 5.6 Councillor Ozsen asked about the development of affordable social facilities for local people. Mr Tong stated that community leisure and retail uses were encouraged as part of mixed use developments and that such social facilities had been provided, albeit at a lower rate than shops and retail. Councillor Ozsen also requested that the next AMR contained more information about environmental impacts across the borough. Ms Broughton responded that the next AMR would extend this section of the report.
- 5.7 Councillor Kennedy referred to the borough's night time economy and stated that the increase in A3 (Restaurants and cafés) use outside town centres may be the result of the Council's Special Policy Areas in Dalston and Shoreditch which restrict the licensing of new venues in these areas. He also questioned why planning policy encouraged such uses in areas such as Shoreditch and Dalston when they already had a high concentration of licensed premises and associated issues of public nuisance. It was important for more cycle and walking lanes to be promoted in residential areas with the increase in mixed use developments. Ms Broughton advised that this was an opportunity to address the special policy area issue in the new Local Plan and that there needed to be further study of future uses to develop and feed into the local plan.

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RESOLVED to approve the Authority Monitoring Report 2015 (as set out in Appendix 1) subject to the schedule of amendments to be agreed by the Chair.

6 WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

6.1 The Chair introduced the work programme 2016/17 of the Corporate Committee.

RESOLVED to approve the work programme of the Corporate Committee for the Municipal Year 2016/17 as set out in Appendix 1.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR IS URGENT

7.1 There was no other urgent business.

Duration of the meeting: 6.30 - 8.35 pm

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