

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 2016

- Councillors Present:** Councillor Jessica Webb in the Chair
- Cllr Will Brett, Cllr Jon Burke, Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas (Vice-Chair), Cllr Katie Hanson, Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cllr Rebecca Rennison, Cllr Ian Sharer, Cllr Nick Sharman and Cllr Vincent Stops
- Apologies:** Councillor Brian Bell, Councillor Barry Buitekant, Councillor Robert Chapman, Councillor Michael Levy and Councillor Sally Mulready
- Officers in Attendance:** Yinka Owa (Assistant Director, Legal), Steve Bending (Head of Safer Communities), and Barry Scales (Service Team Manager).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bell, Chapman, Buitekant, Mulready and Levy.
- 1.2 Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr Kennedy.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - MEMBERS TO DECLARE AS APPROPRIATE

- 2.1 Following Cllr Burke's arrival at the meeting, he advised the Committee that he no longer had a disclosable pecuniary interest as his partner was no longer employed by Hackney Council.

3 CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2016 were approved as a correct record of the meeting subject to minor typographical errors.

4 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM AND NOISE NUISANCE

(Cllr Burke arrived at the meeting at 6.15pm, Cllr Hanson attended at 6.52pm, Cllr Fajana-Thomas attended at 6.56pm and Cllr Kennedy attended at 7.35pm).

- 4.1 Barry Scales, Community Safety Services Manager, introduced the annual report on the development of the Council's response to noise nuisance. A brief

background was provided of the service and its responsibility including the retention of wider community safety and anti-social behaviour. It was highlighted since the restructure in 2013 there had been a marginal decrease in number of noise nuisance cases and the inclusion of recording commercial noise nuisance. The team's work consisted of the provision of an out of hours service; specialist work with other services on consultations in relation to planning applications; licensing applications and Temporary Event Notices (TENs); construction noise; and a triage system to deal with complaints efficiently. It was highlighted that TENs and complaints of noise nuisance arising from construction works is on the increase.

- 4.2 Councillor Stops highlighted the issue of noise nuisance emanating from religious premises, in particular from some churches on Saturday mornings. Mr Scales said that the team was aware of faith related noise nuisance coming from some BME religious premises. Following the Council seminars held with all faith groups, a noise management plan had been agreed with the relevant faith groups to maintain faith related noise to a minimum by encouraging measures such as closing doors and lowering the volume of equipment. To continue the progress in reducing this particular nuisance the Council planned to hold six monthly seminars.
- 4.3 Councillor Stops sought clarification regarding the triage system. Mr Scales said that noise nuisance impacted on residents' quality of life and that the triage system involved working with other agencies to identify victims of repeated public nuisance. A repeat offender of public nuisance would be issued a warning letter and the complaint would be informed. If there were several complainants reporting a public nuisance then the case would be escalated to an officer.
- 4.4 Councillor Burke asked whether the noise regulations apply to public nuisance at religious festivals. Ms Scales confirmed that that noise nuisance emanating from religious festivals could fall within the definition of statutory nuisance. Councillor Burke commented that The Inter Faith Network is an organisation that pro-actively works with faith groups and that this organisation could assist with addressing the noise nuisance from religious premises.
- 4.5 Councillor Sharer enquired with regard to the complaints of traffic and vehicles noise nuisance. Mr Scales stated that this related to general vehicular noise and although the complaints were recorded the Council had no powers to tackle this particular issue.
- 4.6 Councillor Sharman welcomed the report, however, he indicated that information was necessary in relation to future plans for the service identifying targets and resources. Councillor Sharman asked if the Community Safety Team and Planning Services had sufficient resources in place to meet the future demands on the service especially with the rise in construction related noise nuisance due to the regeneration taking place in the borough.
- 4.7 Mr Bending advised that there had been a reduction in staffing since 2013/14 and that the team held data on staff for the previous five years. Furthermore, a project team was currently reviewing the enforcement arrangements for pollution, noise and anti-social behaviour in order to unify and make the service more efficient. The new enforcement service would mean fewer resources

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were necessary. Finally, the future plans for the service included providing an effective initial response to complaints of nuisance, a robust out of hours service and a triage system enabling a complaint to be referred to the relevant specialist officer if appropriate.

- 4.8 Councillor Sharman indicated that reports presented to the Committee should incorporate a section in relation to the past and present plans for the service.
- 4.9 Councillor Fajana–Thomas enquired whether complaints of construction related noise nuisance should be reported to Planning or the Community Safety Team. Mr Scales explained that Planning had very limited powers in relation to construction nuisance and that the Community Safety Team had limited powers and could take action where construction related noise nuisance occurred at unsocial hours and in relation to any anti-social behaviour of workers on construction sites.
- 4.10 Councillor Hanson asked if the Council retained a register of construction waivers as notices were not always placed at construction sites. Mr Scales indicated that he would look into whether a register existed, however officers liaised with site managers regularly to minimise noise nuisance and negotiate delivery times for materials.

ACTION: Barry Scale to ascertain if a register exists and feedback to Cllr Hanson.

- 4.11 Councillor Burke asked if the data already collated for services could be used to determine the demands of the new service and future resource requirements. Mr Bending advised that it would be possible to carry out an analysis based on the new methodology but that there were risks involved in operating two separate systems.
- 4.12 The Chair stated that the data within the report was good however she supported the comments regarding the style, presentation and contents of the Corporate Committee reports and requested a review of the report template. Mr Bending indicated that future plans for the service would be incorporated in future reports. Mr Scales advised that a general overview would be appropriate as it would be difficult to set future targets due to the ongoing service review.
- 4.13 Members indicated that the report needed to incorporate a section detailing the future of the service to enable a better understanding of future needs and targets to compare the performance of the service against the Council's priorities.
- 4.14 The Chair advised that a meeting had taken place with the Deputy Mayor to address the style and contents of Corporate Committee reports.

RESOLVED to note the contents of this report.

5 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE BOROUGH WIDE DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES ORDER

- 5.1 Barry Scales introduced the report on annual review of the borough wide Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) introduced in May 2010 and now

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superseded by the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Crime and Policing Act 2014. He provided a brief background and advised that the DPPO would transition into a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) on 19th October 2017. Mr Scales indicated that since the introduction of the DPPOs there had been a significant reduction in incidents of anti-social behaviour and street drinking.

- 5.2 Councillor Sharer enquired about the maximum time an Anti-social Behaviour Order had been issued for. Mr Scales stated that an order had been granted previously for 15 years but under the new system orders would not be granted for such long periods. Mr Scales highlighted that all efforts were made to engage with the individual prior to any enforcement action being taken.
- 5.3 Councillor Kennedy enquired about the work of the Thames Reach charity. Mr Scales stated that that the organisation's work was intelligence led and it offered a front facing service supporting street drinkers. Councillor Kennedy asked how many street drinkers continued to have substance abuse issues after receiving support. Mr Bending responded that there were a few individuals for various reasons that continued to have issues despite receiving support.
- 5.4 Councillor Fajana- Thomas asked how street drinkers were identified and the future plans to tackle this issue. Mr Bending indicated that some street drinkers had been brought to the Council's attention whilst others had been identified from an accommodation database. Mr Bending advised that work had been undertaken to identify anti-social behaviour hotspots and action plans were now in place with partner organisations to address this issues. Mr Bending added that once an individual had been identified agencies with varying powers worked collectively and some individuals were referred to third sector organisations.
- 5.5 Councillor Burke queried whether there would be an automatic transition from DPPOs to PSPOs in October 2017. Mr Scales stated that government guidance on the transition was unclear and that Legal Services were currently working on this issue. Councillor Burke requested the inclusion of an update including the implications of the PSPOs in the next annual report.

ACTION: Steve Bending - An update on PSPOs to be incorporated in the next annual report.

- 5.6 Councillor Burke referred to pages 20 and 21 of the report and asked why the police figure had increased despite a decline in the Council figures on street drinkers. Mr Bending clarified that the increase had been the result of more street drinkers in the borough and insufficient police resources to meet the demands of these individuals. In addition fewer complaints had also been reported to the Council.
- 5.7 Councillor Fajana–Thomas asked if the DPPOs had contributed to the reduction in street drinkers. Mr Bending indicated that the reduction had been the result of the DPPOs and a collective approach by multiple agencies.
- 5.8 Councillor Stops enquired whether the boards erected at Picture House were permanent. Mr Bending advised that the area had been boarded temporarily to

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prevent street drinkers occupying the space and would be reviewed if appropriate.

- 5.9 Councillor Brett asked if the Council would have more powers under the new PSPO to tackle street drinking. Mr Bending stated that under the PSPO more collaborative work would be undertaken with other agencies to address the issue. They would provide support and issue warnings to address drinker's behaviour prior to any enforcement action being taken.
- 5.10 The Chair indicated that future reports should include information on the future of the service including targets and resource requirements. Cllr Sharman indicated that it was necessary to review the Corporate Committee report template to ensure that the Committee report provided the information the Committee required to undertake its role.

ACTION: To liaise with the Chair to update the Corporate Committee report template

RESOLVED to note the contents of this report.

6 WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

- 6.1 Councillor Sharman commented that the Trading Standards and Food Safety reports were not included in the draft work programme.
- 6.2 The Chair indicated that a pre-meeting prior to agenda publication would be useful.

RESLOVED to note the draft work programme 2016/17.

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

- 7.1 Cllr Stops reported that the Transport for London will be adopting a zero tolerance to A Boards in areas of Hackney.

Duration of the meeting: 6.30 - 8.15 pm

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