

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF CORPORATE COMMITTEE
HELD ON
MONDAY, 31 JANUARY 2022**

THIS MEETING WAS LIVE STREAMED AND CAN BE VIEWED HERE:

<https://youtu.be/DPVHB4B4K1E>

Chair: Cllr Clare Potter

Councillors in Attendance: Cllr Brian Bell, Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Emma Plouviez, Cllr Vincent Stops, Cllr Penny Wrouth.

Virtually in attendance

Cllr Ajay Chauhan, Cllr Humaira Garasia, Cllr Katie Hanson and Cllr Ian Rathbone

Apologies: Cllr Clare Joseph
Cllr Steve Race
Cllr Patrick Spence

Officers in Attendance: Gerry McCarthy, Head of Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation
Andy Cunningham, Head of Streetscene
Jessica Feeney, Governance Services Officer
Daniel O'Sullivan - Service Area Manager Markets, Shop Fronts and Street Trading
Josephine Sterakides, Senior Lawyer - Public Realm and Litigation
Stuart Thorn, Head of Human Resources

Also in attendance: Cllr Susan Fajana- Thomas
Cllr Carole Williams

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Joseph, Councillor Steve Race and Councillor Patrick Spence.

1.2 Councillors Hanson, Rathbone, Chauhan, Garasia were virtually in attendance at the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest - Members to declare as appropriate

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

3.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the previous meetings held on 14 September 2021 be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Matters Arising within the minutes:

- Item 3.1 - The Chair declared that the Corporate Committee had been concerned about the minimal number of Council prosecutions being heard at court and the impact this had on the effectiveness of using enforcement as a last resort. Councillor Potter had been assured by Councillor Fajana-Thomas that measures had been put in place. The Senior Lawyer - Public Realm and Litigation explained that the backlog had been worked on and that an extra date in court had been scheduled once a month.
- Item 4.3 - Action regarding an update on the out of hours calls service, the Head of Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation advised that he had not been able to obtain the information and would ensure it was provided in March.
- Item 5.4 - The Chair asked for an update regarding the ongoing issues around anti-social behaviour in the Narrow Way, Church Row Garden and Gillett Square. The Head of Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation advised that these areas were an ongoing issue and that a proactive action plan was in operation. Enforcement, intelligence and outreach work had been implemented over the past 12 months including investment in CCTV coverage within the area. Councillor Rathbone questioned how the Council was helping the rough sleepers rather than prosecuting them, the Head of Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation advised that the Council has a Street Population Coordinator to engage with the street population and to work with the rough sleepers who can be moved into temporary accommodation; enforcement is only used as a last resort.

4. Pay Policy Statement 2023

4.1 The Head of Human Resources introduced the report to the Committee. It was explained that the Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to publish an annual pay policy statement setting out its policies relating to the:

- remuneration of its chief officers (including details of pay elements, pay increases, salary on recruitment, and payments on termination);
- remuneration of its lowest-paid employees; and
- the relationship between the remuneration of chief officers and employees who are not chief officers.

4.2 Councillor Williams was invited to speak on the item as the lead Cabinet Member for the Pay Policy Statement. The Committee was thanked by Councillor Williams for looking at the pay policy, it was pointed out how important this report was for transparency and for the public to understand the council's approach.

4.3 Councillor Wrout questioned why the Chief Executive's pay had been increased within the Pay Policy Statement. The Head of Human Resources advised that when the advert went out for the new Chief Executive, the pay award supplement was included within the salary to increase interest. It was explained that in previous years the pay award was not automatically given to the Chief Executive, the Head of Human Resources advised that he was required to write to the Chief Executive to ask if the Chief Executive would accept the Pay Award.

4.4 **ACTION:** The Head of Human Resources was asked to provide data on how Hackney Council compared to other councils in relation to their pay, calculated as a median for the Chief Executive, medium and low pay grades.

RESOLVED:

That the Pay Policy be agreed and recommended to Council for adoption.

5. Highway Obstruction - Discussion Item

5.1 The Chair invited Councillor Stops to introduce the item and noted the work he, Councillor Webb and Councillor Hanson had played in raising this issue. Councillor Stops highlighted the importance of enforcement around highway obstructions, (considering that 40% of trips within the borough are taken by foot), and suggested that highway obstructions tend to slip through the net. The Corporate Committee over the years has worked to keep on top of this, recognising the importance of the Council using its regulatory powers to keep the borough clear of unlicensed obstructions. Councillor Stops detailed the following requests from pedestrians:

- Wide level and continuous footways clear of obstructions.
- To be able to walk at ease and pass others and not walk single file on narrow obstructive footways, stopping and starting, and cross the street at will.
- Do not want to have to negotiate advertising boards, multiple curbs, projections, railings, overhanging trees and hedges, upturned e-bikes, planters full of cigarette butts and litter.

- Footways must be clear as it improves the look and feel of the borough. Pedestrians want great city streets where people want to spend time walking, shopping or chatting with friends.
- 5.2 Councillor Stops explained that various different departments were responsible for different issues and we must continue to work collaboratively. We must ensure that the parking department continues to enforce against cars and motorcycles parked on pavements, and that abandoned cars and motorcycles are dealt with. The streetscene department was praised regarding the management of advertising boards on public highways. It was declared that there were a number of issues where traders were not sticking to their table and chairs parameters.
- 5.3 Councillor Stops concluded that the Council had kept these issues to a good standard and pleaded that this work would continue in the future. Councillor Hanson agreed with Councillor Stops comments, and commended all the hard work that had been carried out; the importance of keeping streets clear for blind people was reiterated.
- 5.4 In response the Officers in attendance of the meeting made the following points:
- The Head of Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation welcomed Councillor Stops comments; he advised that the Council could now serve penalty notices for offences on Transport for London (TFL) land; it was explained that the Council were now carrying out work on behalf of the TFL without any extra resources. Advertisement Boards were not tolerated on public highway land, however if an advertisement board was placed on private highway land there is not much that the Council can do.
 - Bicycles on highways in a dangerous condition can be removed immediately, however if the bicycle is not in a dangerous condition the Council has to go through a legal process to remove them.
 - The Service Area Manager Markets, Shop Fronts and Street Trading explained that in the last 18 months TFL has relinquished the decision making on street tables and chairs. If Hackney supports an application, revocation or revision; we make the decision as long as TFL are notified in time; so in effect the Council has the freedom to manage and coordinate the TFL area. This has enabled the Council to remove certain services and obstructions around the Shoreditch areas that have been left there by TLF licence holders.
 - The Head of Streetscene supported Councillor Stops comments in relation to keeping highways clear. The Head of Streetscene advised that his team looked after the overhanging hedges; it was declared that this year more notices had been given to properties than any previous year. The Head of Streetscene advised that throughout the summer months hedges do grow faster, however enforcement is carried out every 1 - 3 months. Notices are provided to the property and 14 days are given for a

response, if there is no response, land searches are then carried out to find the actual owner of the property.

- The Head of Streetscene and the Head of Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation are in discussion on how they can speed up the process regarding fixed penalty notices for skips and building waste; the Head of Streetscene's team are preparing to take on the additional responsibility.

ACTION : The chair proposed that officers provide an annual report back to the Committee from the Public Realm directorate detailing the Council's activities and performance to keep the borough's pavements clear. This was agreed. This will ensure that the Council remains focused and continues to improve highway maintenance within Hackney.

ACTION: The Head of Community Safety, Enforcement and Business to provide details on the number of fixed penalty notices this year compared to previous years.

6. Draft Work Programme 2021/22

- 6.1 The Committee noted the Draft Work Programme 2021/22 as set out in the agenda pack.

RESOLVED:

The draft work programme was noted.

7. Any Other Business That The Chair Considers Urgent

- 7.1 There was no other urgent business.

End of Meeting.

Duration of the meeting: 18:30 - 19.34

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