



Havering

L O N D O N B O R O U G H

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE AGENDA

7.30 pm

**Thursday
18 June 2015**

**Town Hall, Main Road,
Romford**

Members 6: Quorum 3

COUNCILLORS:

Barbara Matthews (Chairman)
Carol Smith
Michael White

Barry Mugglestone
Alex Donald (Vice-Chair)
Patricia Rumble

**For information about the meeting please contact:
Wendy Gough 01708 432441
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Protocol for members of the public wishing to report on meetings of the London Borough of Havering

Members of the public are entitled to report on meetings of Council, Committees and Cabinet, except in circumstances where the public have been excluded as permitted by law.

Reporting means:-

- filming, photographing or making an audio recording of the proceedings of the meeting;
- using any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later; or
- reporting or providing commentary on proceedings at a meeting, orally or in writing, so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later if the person is not present.

Anyone present at a meeting as it takes place is not permitted to carry out an oral commentary or report. This is to prevent the business of the meeting being disrupted.

Anyone attending a meeting is asked to advise Democratic Services staff on 01708 433076 that they wish to report on the meeting and how they wish to do so. This is to enable employees to guide anyone choosing to report on proceedings to an appropriate place from which to be able to report effectively.

Members of the public are asked to remain seated throughout the meeting as standing up and walking around could distract from the business in hand.

What is Overview & Scrutiny?

Each local authority is required by law to establish an overview and scrutiny function to support and scrutinise the Council's executive arrangements. Each overview and scrutiny sub-committee has its own remit as set out in the terms of reference but they each meet to consider issues of local importance.

The sub-committees have a number of key roles:

1. Providing a critical friend challenge to policy and decision makers.
2. Driving improvement in public services.
3. Holding key local partners to account.
4. Enabling the voice and concerns to the public.

The sub-committees consider issues by receiving information from, and questioning, Cabinet Members, officers and external partners to develop an understanding of proposals, policy and practices. They can then develop recommendations that they believe will improve performance, or as a response to public consultations. These are considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and if approved, submitted for a response to Council, Cabinet and other relevant bodies.

Sub-Committees will often establish Topic Groups to examine specific areas in much greater detail. These groups consist of a number of Members and the review period can last for anything from a few weeks to a year or more to allow the Members to comprehensively examine an issue through interviewing expert witnesses, conducting research or undertaking site visits. Once the topic group has finished its work it will send a report to the Sub-Committee that created it and will often suggest recommendations for the Overview and Scrutiny Board to pass to the Council's Executive.

Terms of Reference

The areas scrutinised by the Committee are:

- Environment
- Transport
- Environmental Strategy
- Community Safety
- Streetcare
- Parking
- Social Inclusion
- Councillor Call for Action

AGENDA ITEMS

1 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman will announce details of the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building's evacuation.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

(if any) – received.

3 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members are invited to disclose any pecuniary interest in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting.

Members may still disclose any pecuniary interest in an item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter.

4 MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 30 April 2015 and authorise the Chairman to sign them.

5 WASTE MINIMISATION CHALLENGES

The Sub-Committee will receive a presentation setting out the challenges faced by the borough in minimising waste.

6 ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME REPORT (Pages 5 - 8)

The Sub-Committee are asked to agree its work programme report for the coming municipal year.

7 FUTURE AGENDAS

Committee Members are invited to indicate to the Chairman, items within this Committee's terms of reference they would like to see discussed at a future meeting.

Note: it is not considered appropriate for issues relating to individuals to be discussed under this provision.

8 URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any other items in respect of which the Chairman is of the opinion, by reason of special circumstances which shall be specified in the minutes, that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

**Andrew Beesley
Committee Administration
Manager**

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE
Town Hall, Main Road, Romford
30 April 2015 (7.30 - 9.30 pm)**

Present:

Councillors Ray Morgon (Chairman), Carol Smith (Vice-Chair), Alex Donald, Patricia Rumble, Garry Pain and June Alexander (In place of Barry Mugglestone)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Barry Mugglestone

43 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 3 March 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

44 FLYTIPPING PROSECUTIONS

The Sub-Committee was informed that fly tipping was defined as the illegal deposit of any waste onto land, or any waste dumped or tipped on a site with no licence to accept waste. This could be a single black bag or one or more tipper loads.

Fly tipping is reported through the Customer Relationship Management system (CRM). These figures are scrutinised by officers in Streetcare and amended to remove duplicate reports, missed waste collection and sacks put out in advance of collections, and reported fly tips which were not present when the street cleansing team attended to clear them. All reports of fly tips are submitted to Fly Capture which is managed and used by DEFRA.

It was noted that there were inconsistencies between how this was reported by each borough. In 2013-14 Havering had the 14th lowest number of fly tips across 33 boroughs, and was the 4th highest in number of enforcement interventions in relation to all waste type offences.

Enforcement can have an impact, however it is often difficult to identify where the waste has come from, waste such as a dumped fridge or garden waste are difficult to evidence and so no investigation takes place and the fly tip is cleared.

The Sub-Committee noted that during 2014/15 it was estimated that around 22% of fly tips reported were investigated for evidence, with 2098 warning letters, 193 Fixed Penalty Notices and 6 prosecutions issued for incidents linked to waste related offences.

The officer stated that there were often other issues behind why fly tipping was happening these could include overcrowding, ignorance, issues with

landlords, issues in getting to the RRC's or not being able to afford the bulky waste fees. Members noted that there were approximately 4-5 officers who dealt with enforcement across a number of areas.

The Sub-Committee noted that a number of recent fly tipping convictions had been secured as a result of evidence captured on covert CCTV cameras which had been strategically placed in the lanes around Upminster. These were small portable units which can be positioned in greenery around known fly tipping hot spots. The cameras had been deployed over most weekends throughout the year.

A longer term solution was to install a fixed network of cameras at strategic locations around Upminster and Rainham which would capture vehicle details and the loads (if they are open back) and may help secure prosecutions. The first camera had already been situated in Launderers Lane, Rainham.

Members discussed how flytipping was enforced in private alleyways. Officers stated that discussions with the lead members were on-going. If enforcement was put in place, it could mean fining a number of residents who have access to the alleyway, whether they are responsible for the fly tipping or not.

The Sub-Committee thanked the officer for the update.

45 STREET LIGHTING TIMERS

The Sub-Committee were informed that there were approximately 20,000 lights in the borough (including 1500 illuminated signs and 700 bollards) of which 55% were controlled by Photo Electronic Cells (PEC) which activated the lights automatically when it got dark and go off when it gets light.

Members raised concerns about the number of lights that were on during the day, known as "day-burn", as well as whether the shades on the new lights could be changed to deflect the light from residents' windows, especially for those in a cul-de-sac, where the properties are situated at different angles to the light.

It was noted that all repairs to street lighting was carried out within 5 working days. Delays happened when a major utility was involved as they did not have the same time scales as the borough.

46 PERFORMANCE DATA

The Sub-Committee was informed and noted performance data that had been discussed at the previous meeting.

Parking Performance - This was measured by income activity. Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) income was less than predicted and resulted in £218k pressure whereas the parking income (pay and display) performed better

than expected with a year end result of £130k better than predicted. Overall there was a net loss position against the budget of £88k.

The officer stated that it was very difficult to predict car parking, as compliance was a big area. With the recent changes in legislation, the CCTV car could no longer issue PCN's. There were a number of areas where improvements could be made including enforcement after 8pm in specific locations. This would need to be in conjunction with residents and businesses in the area.

Waste Collection - The contract for the waste collection started last year with Serco. A fire at the waste management facility in Frog Island which coincided with the first operational day of the new contract severely disrupted the waste and recycling collections, leading to a higher number of missed collections in August 2014. It was noted that currently missed collections of approximately 200 per month, is less than approximately 0.1% of all collections and of these 80% were rectified within 24 hours.

The Sub-Committee noted that the waste levy was rising as was tonnage. Across London tonnages rose by 3% by last year compared with an estimated 2% in Havering. There were a number of factors that contributed to the increase, including the growth in housing, with more residents there would be more waste. The average cost in waste per year was £13 million, with a prediction that by 2027 this would rise to in excess of £20 million.

The waste levy rose by 5% each year, however this could rise by 10% each year depending on the level of waste. The officer stated that the new waste contract would need to be decided upon soon, together with how waste is reduced and what initiatives would assist in this process. Cost and environmental benefit needed to be considered, however these did not always go hand in hand.

It was noted that some of the largest contributors to waste include the large supermarkets, in there "buy one, get one free" campaigns, as this produces more packaging and often wasted food. The "Love Food, Hate Waste" campaign has helped the consumer, but there is still more that can be done. The Sub-Committee noted that it was people's behaviour that needs to change.

Member raised issues with times of collections and the size of vehicles that were collecting. There were areas of the borough where parking had been restricted so that the lorries are able to access the roads, and some roads where the lorries are having to cross verges to gain access.

The Sub-Committee noted that recycling does not save any money in the current ELWA contract, it does divert from landfill, but is still subject to tonnage fees. The officer explained the hierarchy of waste stating that minimisation and re-use came before recycling.

The Sub-Committee noted that green waste customers had increased from 2013/14 to 22,289, this was short of the 22,500 target. Further work to promote and encourage usage would continue over the year.

Members raised concerns that about the number of green waste bags that were provided. At present there were 50 bags in a bundle, which was felt to be too many for residents with smaller gardens.

Members discussed the London Green Points scheme and how it worked. Members asked for details of the cost of the scheme and if it was of value to the borough.

47 CHEWING GUM ON PAVEMENTS

The Sub-Committee was informed that it took 10 times the value of a piece of gum to remove it from pavements. Even when removed, the gum can leave an oil based stain which discolours the pavement. The officer explained that although manufacturers of cleansing equipment had tried, to date there was no effective mechanical way to remove chewing gum. A recent pilot to support a regeneration initiative in Romford Town Centre was carried out to remove gum. It was estimated that it would take 24 weeks to remove the gum just from South Street and after which it was highly likely that the process will have to recommence to remove new deposits.

The officer stated that with proactive removal, together with a comprehensive communications campaign and an enforcement presence would be the most effective sustainable strategy to target the depositing of gum. This however would be costly. It was noted that the annual cost for one operative and the equipment was approximately £38,000.

48 ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

The Sub-Committee received and noted its Annual Report for the municipal year 2014/15. This would now being presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Board and then onto Full Council.

Chairman

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:	Sub-Committee’s Work Programme
CMT Lead:	Andrew Blake-Herbert, Resources
Report Author and contact details:	Wendy Gough Committee Administration 01708 432441 wendy.gough@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	To agree the Sub-Committee’s work programme for the 2015/16 municipal year.
Financial summary:	None – overview and scrutiny work will be covered by existing resources

SUMMARY

At this stage of the municipal year the Sub-Committee is required, so far as is practicable, to agree its work programme for the forthcoming year. This applies to both the work plan for the Sub-Committee as a whole and to the subject of any topic group run under the Sub-Committee’s auspices.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Sub-Committee agree its work programme for 2015/16 municipal year.

REPORT DETAIL

Shown in the schedule at the end of the report is a draft work programme for the Sub-Committee's four meetings during the municipal year. The issues for the first meeting have been drawn up by officers following initial discussions with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Members will note that the remainder of the workplan has been left blank at this stage. This is to reflect the fact that Members may wish to select further issues for scrutiny. In addition, previous experience has shown that it is beneficial to leave some excess capacity for scrutiny in order to allow the Sub-Committee to respond fully to any consultations or other urgent issues that may arise during the year.

Additionally, the Sub-Committee has the power to select an issue for more in depth scrutiny as part of a topic group review. Council has recommended that, in view of limited resources, only one such topic group is run at any one time. The Sub-Committee is therefore requested to consider what should be the subject of its next topic group review, if any.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks: None – it is anticipated that the work of the Committee can be supported from existing resources.

Legal implications and risks: None

Human Resources implications and risks: None

Equalities implications and risks: None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.



Schedule: Draft Work Programme for the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee			
Meeting 1 (18 June 2015)	Meeting 2 (2 September 2015)	Meeting 4 (14 January 2016)	Meeting 5 (8 March 2016)
Committee's Work Programme Report			
Waste Minimisation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to shrink waste and encourage residents to produce less.• Incentives/ education• Contact ELWA Board (Mark Ash/ Cllr Kelly)• Change in behaviour• Solutions to minimise (containers?)	Flytipping and Enforcement – initial presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actual size of the problem• What type of waste is being abandoned• Causes of flytipping• Sustainable solutions	Parking in the Borough for residents <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision and capacity in Havering• Strategic approach• How can the capacity be delivered	
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