

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

At a meeting of the **RESOURCES AND CORPORATE PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held on **TUESDAY, 19TH DECEMBER, 2023** at 6.30 pm in Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT

Councillors Chung (Chair), Rebecca Filer, Edmund Frondigoun, Liam Martin-Lane and James Slater

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ABSENT

Councillors Jenny Mulholland, Andrew Parkinson and Jonathan Simpson

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor Richard Olszewski

The minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting. They are subject to approval and signature at the next meeting of the Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee and any corrections approved at that meeting will be recorded in those minutes.

MINUTES

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jenny Mulholland and Jonathan Simpson.

2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF STATUTORY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, COMPULSORY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND VOLUNTARY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN MATTERS ON THIS AGENDA

No declarations were made.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Broadcast of the meeting

The Chair announced that the meeting was being broadcast live by the Council to the Internet and could be viewed on the website for twelve months after the meeting. After that time, webcasts were archived and could be made available upon request. Those who had asked to address the meeting were deemed to be consenting to

having their contributions recorded and broadcast and to the use of those sound recordings and images for webcasting and/or training purposes.

4. DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)

There were no deputations.

**5. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR
CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no such business.

6. REVIEW OF THE CAMDEN MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Cost of Living. The report was introduced by the Head of Finance, Corporate Services.

In their discussion of the report, the Committee made the following comments:

- Members said the Housing Revenue Account continued to be concerning, they asked what the picture would be like in the next 5 years. The Head of Finance said that the main improvement would be the increasing of reserves and that part of the MTFS was to increase those reserve levels.
- Responding to a question arising from work around damp and mould, the Head of Finance commented that with works of this nature it was difficult to know the extent of a problem until surveys had been carried out. The estimates that had been given were based on broad surveys of what the cost would be.
- The Head of Finance commented that the development of the MTFS was a long term piece of work and decisions on the development of the programme were made based on affordability and policy priorities.
- When asked a question about the Council's likelihood of delivering on the second half of the current MTFS, the Head of Finance said that it would be important to take time deciding what actions to take, choosing the right thing that fit in with the We Make Camden priorities. He noted that Camden had a good track record with identifying and delivering savings.

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

7. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT 2024/25

Consideration was given to the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Cost of Living. The report was introduced by the Head of Council Tax, Business Rates and Benefits.

Members noted that Camden still had one of the most generous Council Tax support schemes in London.

Responding to a question from the Committee around the automation of claiming, the Head of Service said that at the moment, someone needs to make a request and that there is not an automatic system for doing this. He asked Councillors to share the information about the Council Tax Support Scheme with residents to help get the message out.

The Head of Service agreed to share figure with the Committee that showed a breakdown of Council Tenants and Private Tenants who had signed up to the scheme subject to data protection permission.

Action by: the Head of Council Tax, Business Rates and Benefits

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

8. INSIGHT, LEARNING AND IMPACT REPORT - QUARTER 2 2023-24

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Directors of Adults and Health, Children and Learning, Supporting Communities and Corporate Services. The Report was introduced by the Head of Corporate Strategy and Cabinet Office.

Members commented that it was helpful to have information around the broader strategic narratives as it aided them in understanding the big picture.

It was noted by Members that there was not information included about Contact Camden, they asked if information could be provided as there had been service transformations.

Action by: the Head of Corporate Strategy and Cabinet Office

In response to a question from the Committee around how risks were gauged from officers across the organisation, the Head of Strategy said that Directors were regularly asked to give judgements and provide updates. For this report, Directors within each service were asked to give their headline position on key risks.

The Committee commented on the Cost of Living Crisis Fund and said that it added a breadth of value in addition to providing financial support. Members suggested that it could be used, longer term, as an opportunity for signposting after awards were

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given. The Head of Strategy said that Camden had carried out a piece of research on who had received cost of living support payments and the post-award signposting. They said they would share the information with the Committee.

Action by: the Head of Corporate Strategy and Cabinet Office.

Members Commented that they were pleased to see the ambition of the Law and Governance Directorate to increase the electoral role before the Mayoral Elections in 2024.

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

9. WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24 AND ACTION TRACKER

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Director Corporate Services. The report was introduced by the Head of Corporate Strategy and Cabinet Office.

In their discussion, Members agreed that the report on participation and partnerships should be taken out of the work programme and that a report around citizen interaction should be added.

RESOLVED –

THAT the work programme be noted subject to the amendment outlined above.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no such business.

The meeting ended at 7.25 pm.

CHAIR

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MINUTES END