

Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Review Panel 2 (Active Citizenship)

Date: Tuesday, 28 April 2020

Time: 19:00

Venue: This meeting will be a virtual meeting and therefore will not take place in a physical location. Please see page 2 of the agenda for a link to the webcast of the meeting.

Attendees:

Councillor Sitarah Anjum, Councillor Jaskiran Chohan, Councillor Karanvir Dhadwal, Councillor Mrs Seema Kumar, Councillor Tariq Mahmood, Councillor Gary Malcolm, Councillor Swaran Padda, Councillor Chris Summers

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Praveen Anand

1 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Councillor Mohammed Aslam substituted for Councillor Praveen Anand.

2 Urgent Matters

None.

3 Declarations of Interest

None.

4 Matters to be Considered in Private

None.

5 Minutes

The Panel resolved that the minutes be agreed with the following changes:

- the wording of the fourth bullet point on Page 6 of the Agenda Documents should be changed from: If the club was charged for using the facilities, would this be an issue? to: Was the club charged for using the facilities?

- correcting of the formatting issues which occurred during the uploading of the document on the website.

6 **Draft Final Report of Scrutiny Review Panel 2 – 2019-2020 Active Citizenship - Cover Report**

The Panel reviewed the report that had been produced by the Scrutiny Review Officer, Harjeet Bains, and resolved that:

The report be approved subject to the following changes:

- Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic Lockdown, an update in the Chair's Overview should be included in the final report to reflect the current situation affecting the Council's scheduled activities e.g. the timeline for developing the Thriving Communities Strategy (pages 60 and 61 of the agenda papers). The Scrutiny Review Officer should check with the relevant service officers about the revised proposals for the timeline and add these to the report.
- The Chair's Overview should also acknowledge the Panel's recognition of the adverse impact that the Pandemic would have on the Council's future finances and service provision, thereby also affecting the local community in many ways.
- Recommendation 2 be changed to include that advice given by the Council should provide clearer **signposting** to where the advice was available.
- A further comment was to be captured, as an additional Recommendation (14), reflecting the difficulties that voluntary organisations were having during the Coronavirus Pandemic and its impact. Possible wording could be: In the light of the Coronavirus Pandemic and the difficulties encountered by the voluntary organisations, the Panel recommended that relationships and communications between the Council and Voluntary Sector organisations be formalised to augment the sharing of best practice and enhance the Council's ability to provide appropriate advice in future emergency situations.

The Panel also:

- Noted, in relation to Recommendation 7 of the report on Page 88 of the meeting documents, Councillor Kumar queried whether she needed to declare that she knew some Members of the Women's India Association. Sam Bailey (Head of Democratic Services) who was in the meeting, confirmed that a declaration of interest was not required for just knowing the individuals.
- Agreed that Councillor Mahmood provide a written feedback on his site visit to Northolt Library for inclusion in the final report.
- Agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair be authorised to approve the Panel's revised Final Report for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- Proposed that as a scrutiny topic for 2020/2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Community should consider the Council's response to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

On behalf of the Members, Councillor Malcolm thanked the Chair and officers for their work on the Panel. Councillor Kumar explained that it had been wonderful to work with the Chair and the other Members of the Panel and had enjoyed the experience. Councillor Dhadwal thanked the Panel and in particular the Vice Chair and the Scrutiny Review Officer, Harjeet Bains, for her hard work in providing support to the Panel and producing the draft final report.

Councillor Dhadwal closed the meeting at 19:35.