

Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Review Panel 3 (Future Ealing)

Date: Thursday, 12 April 2018

Time: 19:00

Venue: Committee Room 3, Town Hall, New Broadway, W5 2BY

Attendees:

[no attendance published]

Apologies for Absence:

[no attendance published]

Absent:

[officer and guest attendees]

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Ian Proud and Kieran Reid (Director of Strategy and Engagement).

2 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3 Matters to be Considered in Private

There were none.

4 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 22 February 2018

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Panel which had taken place on 22 February 2018. Councillor Theresa Byrne proposed an amendment on page 4, paragraph 8, that the words "within and" be inserted before the word "alongside".

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Panel held on 22 February 2018, with amendments, be agreed as a true and correct record.

Draft Final Report SRP3

The Chair introduced the draft final report of the Panel and suggested that unless Members had any changes to any of the sections in the report, the Panel would go through each proposed recommendation for agreement or amendment. None of the Members had any comments so the Chair took them through the individual recommendations.

Principal Finding

The Chair to submit the final wording for the Panel's Principal Finding.

(As the Council's Future Ealing is a major programme that will resume in the medium term, the Panel feels that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should set up a Scrutiny Panel which should continue to review the developments in the programme during the next municipal year.

The Panel suggests that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should undertake the monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations and further ongoing monitoring.)

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: That although income generation was a smaller part of future savings it is important for the Council not to ignore initiatives (e.g. borough Wi-Fi) that might yield income generation.

The recommendation was agreed as written.

Recommendation 2: The Council should continue with the Future Ealing approach as it is key to meeting the immense financial challenges that we presently face.

There was discussion around the wording, with some Panel Members feeling that it needed to be strengthened with an additional recommendation. It was suggested that the new recommendation spells out "commerciality" and "value-addition" aspects, as well as how the community could be better involved in the Future Ealing process as co-partners with the Council. At present, it seemed the programme was officer-led, and had excluded residents.

Following further conversation it was proposed that the wording of the new recommendation would read as follows:

"The Future Ealing programme should also focus externally to shape a future vision of Ealing as a place that is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and engages co-operatively with residents and civil society organisations as co-producers of desired outcomes."

The recommendation was agreed with any amendments that the Chair and Vice-Chair would finalise.

Recommendation 3: The Council should focus resources on outcomes where the biggest impact can be made.

The recommendation was agreed as written.

Recommendation 4: The success measures should be clearly defined, published, reviewed and monitored over-life of the Future Ealing programme.

The recommendation was agreed as written.

Recommendation 5: The Council should ensure that there is continued scrutiny of the Future Ealing programme as a whole.

The recommendation was agreed as written.

Recommendation 6: The Council should ensure that there is continued scrutiny of specific themes (along the lines of successful digital strategy) and projects (e.g. Brighter Futures) of the Future Ealing programme.

The recommendation was agreed as written.

Recommendation 7: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee should reorganise its regular work programme to include scrutinising delivery of the outcomes of the Future Ealing programme.

The recommendation was agreed as written.

Recommendation 8: The Council should celebrate our unique borough and recognise our achievements but not be afraid to learn from other councils' innovations and change programmes.

There was discussion around the wording, with some Panel Members feeling that it needed to be strengthened with an additional recommendation. It was suggested that the new recommendation was that Ealing Council becomes a member of the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network (CCIN), in order to "share knowledge" and "learn from others". (Membership was presently on offer for £5 027 per annum.)

The recommendation was agreed with any amendments that the Chair and Vice Chair would finalise.

Recommendation 9: The Council should recognise that the challenges we face are not unique to local government and learn from other public sector bodies and elsewhere to find best practice

in meeting these.

The recommendation was agreed as written.

Recommendation 10: The Council should recognise the knowledge and experience of residents, service users and citizens and involve them in service design at an early stage.

There was discussion with some Panel Members suggesting that residents felt decisions on issues were already taken, and did not trust any consultative process with the Council. Therefore, it was imperative to make the community feel part of the decision making process.

Following further conversation, it was agreed that the wording of the recommendation should be amended to include: "proper engagement with residents, service users and active citizens".

The Panel agreed that a new section entitled "People and Place" be inserted above Recommendation 10.

The recommendation was agreed, with any amendments that the Chair and Vice-Chair would finalise.

Recommendation 11: In recognising the difficulty of the change process, the Council should set high aspirations for supporting staff and keep the results of the staff survey under review.

There was discussion around providing staff with "properly resourced infrastructure" and equipment that would make remote working appropriate, especially when the need to contact officers who were working from home arose.

The Assistant Director of Transformation advised that remote working was only for staff who wanted to, and that newly resourced technology was robust enough to reduce system complexities, which would make off-site working possible and convenient. In addition to other facilities, staff members had Skype on their Microsoft Surface tablets to enable them communicate effectively, even from home.

The recommendation was agreed as written.

Recommendation 12: In embedding the One Council approach, the Council should ensure that all staff are supported to deliver outcomes in partnership across every department.

The recommendation was agreed as written.

Recommendation 13: The Council should ensure that staff are encouraged to be proactive in the generation of future work streams that may lead to either better outcomes for users or

savings for the Council.

The recommendation was agreed as written.

Recommendation 14: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee should undertake the ongoing monitoring of the Panel's accepted recommendations.

The recommendation was agreed as written.

The Vice-Chair of the Panel thanked the Chair for the running of the Panel and the supporting officers to the Panel for their able assistance.

The Chair then drew the Panel to a close, with the Panel Members agreeing to delegate the signing off of the finalised report, with recommendations, to the Chair and Vice-Chair.

The Chair informed the Members that they should let the Scrutiny Review Officer know if they had any suggestions for topics to be scrutinised in 2018/2019.

Resolved: That members

1. agree, with any amendments, the Panel's Draft Final Report;
2. agree that the Chair (Cllr Josh Blacker) and Vice-Chair (Cllr Gary Malcolm) be authorised to approve a final version of the full report in time for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 28 June 2018 and Cabinet meeting on 11 September 2018; and
3. suggest topics for scrutiny in the 2018/2019 municipal year.

Councillor Josh Blacker, Chair.

The meeting ended at 7:50pm.