

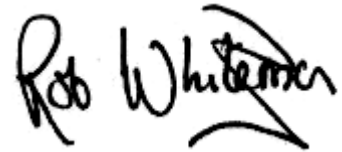
Notice of Meeting

ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 1 April 2009 - 7:00 pm
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Barking

To: Members of the Council of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Chair: Councillor S S Gill
Deputy-Chair: Councillor W F L Barns



R. A. Whiteman
Chief Executive

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AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declaration of Members' Interests**

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interest they may have in any matter which is to be considered at this meeting.
3. **Minutes - To confirm as correct the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2009 (Pages 1 - 18)**
4. **Report of the Executive - Recent Business (Page 19)**
5. **Scrutiny - Political Structure Proposals (Pages 21 - 32)**
6. **GP Services Scrutiny Panel - Final Report (Pages 33 - 51)**
7. **Appointments**
8. **Motions (Pages 53 - 56)**

9. **Leader's Question Time**
10. **General Question Time**
11. **Any other public items which the Chair decides are urgent**
12. **To consider whether it would be appropriate to pass a resolution to exclude the public and press from the remainder of the meeting due to the nature of the business to be transacted.**

Private Business

The public and press have a legal right to attend Council meetings such as the Assembly, except where business is confidential or certain other sensitive information is to be discussed. The list below shows why items are in the private part of the agenda, with reference to the relevant legislation (the relevant paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended). ***There are no such items at the time of preparing this agenda.***

13. **Any confidential or exempt items which the Chair decides are urgent**

ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 25 February 2009
(7:00 - 10:15 pm)

PRESENT

Councillor S S Gill (Chair)
Councillor W F L Barns (Deputy Chair)

Councillor J L Alexander	Councillor R W Bailey
Councillor R J Barnbrook	Councillor G J Bramley
Councillor R J Buckley	Councillor Ms E Carpenter
Councillor S Carroll	Councillor H J Collins
Councillor J Davis	Councillor J R Denyer
Councillor Miss C L Doncaster	Councillor R W Doncaster
Councillor Mrs S A Doncaster	Councillor C J Fairbrass MBE
Councillor M A R Fani	Councillor Mrs K J Flint
Councillor N S S Gill	Councillor D Hemmett
Councillor Mrs D Hunt	Councillor I S Jamu
Councillor J K Jarvis	Councillor T J Justice
Councillor S Kallar MBE	Councillor Mrs C A Knight
Councillor Miss T A Lansdown	Councillor M A McCarthy
Councillor J E McDermott	Councillor M E McKenzie
Councillor Mrs P A Northover	Councillor W W Northover
Councillor B Poulton	Councillor Mrs J E Rawlinson
Councillor Mrs L A Reason	Councillor Mrs V Rush
Councillor L A Smith	Councillor Miss N E Smith
Councillor J Steed	Councillor D A Tufts
Councillor G M Vincent	Councillor L R Waker
Councillor P T Waker	Councillor Mrs M M West

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor A Agrawal	Councillor N Connelly
Councillor R C Little	Councillor E O Obasohan
Councillor L Rustem	Councillor Mrs P A Twomey
Councillor J R White	

72. Declaration of Members' Interests

Councillor Bramley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 5, the Council's Budget 2009/10 to 2011/12 due to being a shareholder in Dagenham and Redbridge Football Club which was being considered as part of the capital programme.

73. Minutes - To confirm as correct the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2009

Agreed.

74. Petition regarding a request from residents of Village Ward to install additional CCTV

The lead petitioner, Mrs S Laver, presented the terms of the petition requesting that the Council implement additional CCTV cameras in the areas around Church Street, Village Ward. She reported that the problem of vandalism to cars in the area started nine years ago resulting in thousands of pounds worth of damage. Mrs Laver thanked Village Ward Members Phil and Lee Waker for their support in raising the concerns of local residents and also congratulated Council officers for implementing some measures to prevent the anti-social behaviour in the area. Mrs Laver indicated that she was pleased with the general response from the Council but reported that some cars were still being vandalised and that residents still felt that implementing CCTV could help resolve the matter.

In response to the petition, the Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services informed the Assembly that the Anti-Social Behaviour Team was aware of the situation and was working with the residents in Church Street to find the best solution. She advised that a number of tasks had been completed which would help prevent anti-social behaviour in Church Street, as follows:

- Area of open land attracting some anti-social activity now fenced off
- Railings in alleyway at rear of shops replaced, and
- Shopkeepers now asked to comply with locking of alley gates.

The Corporate Director advised that a CCTV camera had been installed which could monitor the majority of Church Lane and Church Street but that it was permanently focused on a pub. She reported that since meeting with the residents, the CCTV operators had started to rotate the camera to ensure a wider coverage of the area. The Corporate Director advised Members that evidence had shown that CCTV only worked as part of a package of preventative measures. She concluded that continued work with both the residents and the police would see real improvements in the area.

Councillor Lee Waker reported that the initial walk-round in the area was a very useful exercise in highlighting the issues that needed addressing. He praised Village Ward for its progress against anti-social behaviour and crime but advised that more work was necessary. He commented on the option of a double-headed camera and asked that it be explored further. Councillor Lee Waker also spoke of the importance of the police being visible, particularly in the evenings and he emphasised the importance of enforcing the law in preventing further crime and anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Phil Waker echoed the comments made earlier. He applauded the Council for resolving some of the matters concerning residents of Church Street and he also congratulated Mrs Laver for bringing the matter to the attention of the Council.

Councillor Bailey also made contributions to the debate raising the importance of police presence in tackling crime and calling for a campaign in schools to deter children from acts of vandalism.

Councillor Hemmett called for more police on the streets not for more CCTV.

The Corporate Director advised that CCTV was only effective if used as part of package of measures to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour. She made a commitment to working with the residents and the police to ensure that the schemes put in place are effective. She advised the Assembly that the levels of criminal activity in the area were no greater than the rest of the borough with only 6 incidents reported in 6 months.

Councillor Rush, the Executive Portfolio Holder for Community Safety summed up by thanking the officers and residents for their contributions and for alerting the Council to the problems in Church Street. She advised the Assembly that the outstanding work, as set out in the action plan, would be completed by end of March and April respectively. She echoed the view of the Corporate Director that CCTV was only one tool in an array of measures against crime and anti-social behaviour. She emphasised the significance of reporting crime if the Council were to succeed in tackling it and stated that no criminal activity was too trivial to report. The Executive Portfolio Holder made a commitment to raising Members' wishes to have a more visible police force in her one-to-one meetings with the Borough Commander.

75. The Council's Budget 2009/10 to 2011/12

The Divisional Director of Corporate Finance introduced the report advising on the Council's budget position and Council Tax for 2009/10, the adoption of the rolling three year medium term financial strategy, capital strategy and a Capital Programme. He referred to his statutory duty as a Section 151 Officer and acting in that capacity, it was his view that the main budget proposals were sound and robust. Referring to Item 5a of the supplementary agenda, the proposed amendment submitted by the BNP Minority Party, he reported an increase in the Council's base budget by £7m and a reduction in Council Tax of 3.5%. Expressing his view as the Section 151 Officer, he could not substantiate the proposals in the alternative budget within the time that he had been given the information.

Councillor Bramley, Executive Portfolio Holder for Resources, introduced the budget proposals that were agreed by the Executive on 17 February 2009. He reminded Members that preparing the budget was a year long process that began as soon as the financial year had commenced. He thanked officers and Members for their contribution to the process.

Councillor Bramley advised that the proposed freeze on Council Tax was unprecedented in Barking and Dagenham and was being implemented in recognition of the financial difficulties people of the borough faced. He highlighted the significance of the freeze by pointing to the increases in Council Tax implemented in the London boroughs of Havering and Redbridge.

Councillor Bramley reported that the budget would protect families, vulnerable people and front line services whilst driving forward a programme of efficiencies and value for money services. He spoke of his excitement in the capital programme which committed the Council to investing a total of £434million in public assets. These investments included £90million in a new leisure centre in Becontree Heath, £20million in the road improvement programme as well as significant investment in children's schools and children centres in response to the

wishes of the local residents. The capital programme which maintained the rate of regeneration in the borough would sustain jobs, create more apprenticeships and opportunities for growth.

In conclusion, Councillor Bramley said that the Executive budget was sound, robust, that expenditure was based on revenue, it was historic, exciting, it sought excellence across all services and, most importantly, supported ordinary people.

Councillor Bailey then presented the BNP minority amendment to the budget. He criticised the Labour Government for not delivering an end to boom and bust and promised an alternative budget that promoted a return to common sense and one that was not wasted on immigrants. He also spoke of spending less on agencies and contracted services and an investment in British jobs for British people.

Councillor Bailey proposed savings in Adult & Community Services through:

- Purchasing a fleet of eco vehicles to eliminate the cost of paying for private taxi services saving £200,000
- Reducing the costs of providing meals on wheels by bringing the service in-house. There are no anticipated extra costs from this change but savings in the long term are predicted.
- CCTV, Community Safety and Parks Police, Substance Misuse and Youth Offending Service would be put under the management of the Head of Environmental & Enforcement services bringing a predicted administrative and support saving of £200,000.
- Axing of funds paid towards voluntary organisations which are racist and discriminatory in their ethos and operation and not accessible to the entire taxpaying population. It is anticipated that axing these grants will save in excess of £250,000, the organisations include:
 - Ethnic Minority Partnership Association
 - Arabic Speaking Women
 - Barking Muslim & Cultural Society
 - Community Active Support
 - London Francophone Programme
 - Race Equality Council
 - Faith Forum
 - LGBT Forum
 - Refugee Network B & D
 - CIIL
 - B & D African Welfare Association
 - African Youth League
 - Praxis International Research
 - Punjabi Welfare
 - Quaker Social Action
 - Somali Women's Association
 - Yu Hua Chinese Association
 - International Gospel & Health Group
 - Turkish Women

- Bringing the management of community halls back in-house. The £700,000 pounds deficit would be reduced to £350,000 by reducing hourly charges and properly marketing the facilities to commercial and community groups.
- Withdrawing all equalities and diversity activities saving £200,000.

Councillor Bailey then focused on proposals to restructure the Children's Services Department. The amended budget would seek savings through the following means:

- Scrapping the Family & Targeted Support Service and any residual function, whose work will be picked up by other departments, saving £750,000.
- Building a school catering for all children with special needs on Barking Riverside. An estimated sum of £20 million would enable the building of a state of the art facility for vulnerable children. It is predicted that the cost of borrowing would be outweighed by the benefits accrued by the council and the parents of the children. An anticipated annual savings of £5million could be made. The new school would be placed under the management of Trinity Special Schools who will also be encouraged to make the school profitable in the long term.
- Building a £15million specialist boarding school for children in foster care on Council owned land and with a £2million pound staff budget and cost of capital, this would attract a saving of £10million per year.
- Cutting the supply of halal meat to all educational facilities could bring a saving of £100,000

Councillor Bailey also proposed changes for the Customer Services Department, summarised as follows:

- In view of the borough-wide roll-out of wheelie bins reallocating waste management staff to deal with refuse and recycling to increase the green credentials of the borough.
- Investing £200,000 to purchase new sweeping and cleansing vehicles.
- Purchasing £1,000,000 worth of eco vehicles and spending £400,000 for staffing and running costs making a saving of £100,000 against the use taxis and minicabs. Bringing the Mayor's cars into the vehicle fleet and ensuring they are made available for appropriate council use would also increase efficiency.
- Recruiting additional Environmental Health Officers to focus on food hygiene standards at a cost of £200,000.
- Restructuring Environmental Enforcement so they took on some functions of other departments, for example, taking over the security contract from TAG K9 which is estimated to be worth £2.9million in 2008/09. The BNP

would also recruit 12 more street wardens as part of the new Barking and Dagenham Enforcement Section at a cost of £500,000.

- Investing £300,000 to construct visitors' centers and toilet facilities in the borough's cemeteries.
- Freezing the charges for sports facilities at a cost of £25,000.
- Removing agency costs and investing £80,000 in machinery and staff to do the job within Arboriculture, saving £25,000.
- Increasing the charge for Citizenship ceremonies saving £50,000 in the Registration Service.
- Offering a discretionary 10% discount for existing and new payers of National Non-Domestic Rates. The BNP understands that in these economic circumstances, the council should help the business community as much as it can.
- Removing 520 families currently in private landlord rented accommodation under emergency housing and building a temporary accommodation site based on unused brown-field sites developed with mains drainage and electricity at a cost of £1million, hard standing and paths at a cost of £1million and equipped with previously used caravans at a cost of £500,000. An additional £500,000 would be spent on management and maintenance of the site producing an annual saving of £3million.
- Altering the housing policy by giving the highest points rating and priority to those applicants who have the strongest ancestral connection with the borough.
- Eliminating the asylum service which costs £4million a year to run. However it is recognised that this is not a direct saving to the borough's taxpayers, as the service is centrally funded, it is, therefore in the borough's residents' broader interests not to attract asylum seekers or migrants to come and live here.

Referring to the Regeneration service, Councillor Bailey indicated potential savings and changes in the following areas:

- Rationalisation of Public Conveniences by putting their management under Environment Services, bringing about a predicted saving of £20,000.
- Scrapping Skills Learning & Enterprise Services as this is a service that attracts refugees to the borough, ultimately leading them to draw on the resources of the borough.
- Scrapping the Olympic Unit and reallocating some of the staff to a more general role within sports centres making a net saving of £150,000 pounds.
- Reducing the events budget from £400,000 to £200,000 making a saving of

£200,000. Free classical concerts will be organized at the Barking Festival and at the Dagenham Show on the Leisure, Arts and Events section. There will also be provision for a St George's Day celebration.

- Reducing new and existing commercial & "other properties" rents while maintaining existing tenants and attracting new ones. There may not be any net cost, but there may be a reduction of £200,000 in income as part of the cost of maintaining the local economy.
- Withdrawing from all rented private premises attracting an anticipated saving in the commercial rented sector of £500,000.
- Building a new public car park on the site of Rogers Road depot to serve this industrial area and Dagenham stations which will cost £600,000.
- Freeze the services part of the rent increase at its current level.

In summarising the BNP Minority budget, Councillor Bailey said that, if it was accepted, the amended budget would mark a return to common sense, put local people first, support the green agenda, be business friendly and put an end to political correctness.

Councillor Bramley made the following comments in response to Councillor Bailey's presentation:

- The amended budget made no reference at all to the Capital Programme which is a significant part of the budget. It amounts to £434million worth of investment in the borough.
- The amended budget made no comment or reference to the treasury management strategy, another significant component of the Council's budget.
- There was a reference in page 81 of the amended budget on making use of Council reserves; there was, however, no further detail about the amount of reserves used, what they would be used for or how the amended budget would generate reserves.
- The amended budget proposed slashing the marketing and communications budget by £2million, however, the budget earmarked for marketing and communications was only £1.4million. The figures, therefore, did not balance.
- If the proposal to slash the marketing and communications budget was accepted the Council would not be able to advertise: staff vacancies, services for elderly or vulnerable people, planning applications, legal notices or council tax reminders.
- The amended budget did not come across as being well thought through or detailed. The document simply combined a few vague ideas and BNP minority party rhetoric.

There then followed a lengthy debate on the amended budget proposals. There were a number of criticisms from the majority party Members on the validity and feasibility of the amended budget as well as strong support for the Executive budget proposals. The main points raised were:

- Proposals to build an enclosed caravan park for emergency housing purposes were not feasible and would never be considered as an option. The Council would not subject vulnerable people to such treatment
- The Executive proposals support strong families, good education and skills. All are important for young people to achieve their full potential. The original budget represents the biggest investment in education for young people in the history of the borough with a massive Building School for the Future programme, including:
 - £48 million at Barking Abbey
 - £12.5 million at Robert Clack
 - £18 million at Warren
 - £28 million at Sydney Russell
- Also an ambitious capital programme, improving our existing schools and building new ones, including:
 - New school River Gate Primary
 - New school Cannington Road Primary
 - New primary school on University o East London site
 - New school Lymington Primary
 - £4 million Beam Primary expansion
 - £5 million St George's Primary refurbishment
 - And £1.3 million for 2 new children's centres: Sterry Road and Markyate
- The proposals to keep vulnerable children currently under the care of foster parents in a boarding school were objectionable and real kick in the teeth to vulnerable children. The proposal lacked any sympathy or understanding of the needs of young children.
- People in Barking and Dagenham deserve to feel safe the police alone cannot do that. Barking and Dagenham Council are, therefore, working with them and investing their own money in the fight against crime. The BNP propose to cut CCTV cameras, parks police and slash the services that keep people safe. The opposition party want to cut funding for a much needed service that people are asking for.
- Communal heating charges are the fairest and most transparent way to support people struggling to pay for utilities. The Council is at risk from the Government taking control of housing services if it does not manage the fees and charges appropriately and raise prices in line with the utility companies' fees. The opposition party's proposal to build a fenced off caravan site for those in need of emergency housing is like building a ghetto in Barking and Dagenham, a scheme which has been condemned in countries like South Africa.
- The amended budget proposals would mean four community halls having to

close down as a result of cuts to the Customer Services Department.

- Where would the caravan park be located?
- The amended budget would slash the funding for the register office meaning local people will not have the option of being married in the borough.
- Use of private vehicles and taxi service critical for transporting disabled children around the borough. It would therefore not be practical to ask disabled children to use public transport to access care and services.
- It is very easy to propose cuts and savings however it is unrealistic to assume there will not be a detrimental impact as a result of cuts.
- No evidence that voluntary or community based organisations receive any funding from the Council.
- The Executive budget recognises that local families want exciting and safe things for young people to do close to home. The budget delivers that in the form of:
 - Brand new library Rush Green Library – £1.1 million
 - Refurbished community centre and library Marks Gate – £1.6 million
 - New library at the Heathway
 - New facilities for Barking Rugby Club – £250,000
 - £19 million state of the art public leisure centre at Becontree Heath
- There would be a detrimental impact on the events and festivals the Council organises if the amended budget were agreed, the events department would cease to function and following events would all have to be cancelled:
 - Barking Park Fireworks
 - Twilight Classical Concert
 - East London MELA
 - RAW Talent Competition
 - Spooktacular
 - Walk in the Park
 - Christmas Carol Concert
 - Barking and Dagenham 5 Mile Run
 - Around 40 other local community events
 - And of course, the 57-year-old and ever-popular Town Show!

The Chair then invited Councillor Bailey to sum up his party's amended budget.

Councillor Bailey urged the Council to consider some of his party's proposals which had been motivated by the extreme financial circumstances. He asked that Members be open to cuts no matter how difficult they were. It was his party's view that a Council was there to provide essential services to the public and to not be there as a last resort for everybody that needed help. Councillor Bailey hoped that the debate might generate some benefits for local people and said that the proposals were not an attack on vulnerable people but were a call to common

sense.

Councillor Bramley was then invited to sum up the Executive budget.

Councillor Bramley reported that the Executive repeatedly put forward proposals to ensure the Council's sound financial footing and this year's budget was no different. There were no big risks or investments in Icelandic Banks unlike other local authorities. Councillor Bramley thanked Members for their contribution to the debate and reminded Councillors that the Council's Section 151 Officer had commended the budget based on its robustness but could not substantiate the budget prepared by the opposition.

Councillor Bramley then left the room and was not present during the voting.

The Chair then moved to the vote and the alternative budget was **not agreed** by a majority vote.

Councillor Fairbrass moved that the Executive budget be put to a recorded vote and this was supported by Councillors Alexander, Rush and Liam Smith. The Executive budget was then put to the vote and was **agreed** as follows:

For: Councillors Alexander, Barns, Carpenter, Carroll, Collins, Davis, Denyer, Fairbrass, Fani, Flint, Nirmal Gill, Rocky Gill, Hemmett, Hunt, Jamu, Justice, Kallar, McCarthy, McDermott, McKenzie, Patricia Northover, Warren Northover, Poulton, Rawlinson, Reason, Rush, Liam Smith, Nadine Smith, Vincent, Phil Waker, and West.

Against: Councillors Bailey, Barnbrook, Buckley, Claire Doncaster, Sandra Doncaster, Ronald Doncaster, Jarvis, Knight, Lansdown, Steed and Tuffs.

Abstain: None.

The Assembly therefore **agreed**:

- i) A 2009/10 revenue budget and a Council Tax Freeze for the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham element and noting the freeze in the Greater London Authority precept giving an overall Council Tax Freeze for 2009/10 (Appendix 1 and 1 (i)) of the report.
- ii) The position on reserves as set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.4.
- iii) The Statutory Budget Determinations and Amount of Council Tax for the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (Appendix 2).
- iv) A Capital Programme for 2009/10 to 2012/13 in accordance with the recommendations approved by the Executive on 17 February 2009 (Appendix 3 and 3(i)).
- v) The Three year financial plan and indicative proposals (Appendix 4 and 4 (i)).

- vi) The Capital Strategy (Appendix 5).
- vii) The Prudential Indicators (Appendix 6).

Councillor Bramley returned to the meeting.

76. Treasury Management Annual Strategy and the Council's Prudential Indicators

Received a report setting out the Treasury Management Annual Strategy Statement, Treasury Prudential Indicators and Annual Investment Strategy.

Agreed

1. An authorised borrowing limit of £200 million for 2009/10;
2. The Treasury Management Annual Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy (appendix 1); and
3. The prudential indicators for 2009/10 through to 2011/12.

77. Council Constitution

Agreed the proposed changes to the Council Constitution as set out in the report with immediate effect.

78. Appointments

There were none.

79. Motions

Motion 1. Congratulating Apprentices

Moved by Councillor McCarthy and seconded by Councillor Carpenter.

"This Council congratulates the apprentices who are part of the Council's apprenticeship scheme. This Council believes that at this time we should be investing in training and skills for people in this borough; not wasting money on self indulgent exercises like making webcasts of ourselves, as recently suggested by the BNP."

Councillors Carpenter, Denyer, Hemmett and Liam Smith spoke in support of the motion. They discussed the challenge of achieving 750 apprenticeships by 2011 expressing their confidence in reaching the target. Councillors also welcomed the strong partnership with local employers and training providers stating it was an example of a good public private partnership. The Members were confident that the apprentice scheme would ensure employers had the right skills in place and ready for the upturn in the economy and was a way of investing in the talents of our young people.

Councillors Bailey, Barnbrook, Justice and Lansdown also declared their support for the motion but they criticised the dismissive comments made about web-casting, calling it unnecessary political sniping.

In making his closing remarks, Councillor McCarthy spoke of the variety of apprenticeships stating that the schemes lasted between three to five years. In responding to the criticisms for including the point about contrasting the support of apprentices against that of webcasting, he declared that it was as a direct consequence of the BNP including other issues when they moved their motion on webcasting, he declared if the BNP did not like this comparison within a motion then they should refrain from such a course of action rather than condemn.

The Motion was put to the vote and **agreed** unanimously as follows:

For: Councillors Alexander, Bailey, Barnbrook, Barns, Bramley, Buckley, Carpenter, Carroll, Collins, Clair Doncaster, Sandra Doncaster, Ronald Doncaster, Denyer, Fani, Flint, Nirmal Gill, Rocky Gill, Hemmett, Hunt, Jamu, Jarvis, Justice, Kallar, Knight, Lansdown, McCarthy, McDermott, McKenzie, Patricia Northover, Warren Northover, Poulton, Rawlinson, Reason, Rush, Liam Smith, Nadine Smith, Steed, Tuffs, Vincent, Philip Waker and West.

Against: None

Abstain: None

Motion 2. Recognising the popularity of wheelie bins in the recent pilot

Moved by Councillor McKenzie and seconded by Councillor Hunt

"This Council congratulates the work of the officers on the successful outcome of the wheelie bin pilot schemes. This Council notes that the wheelie bin pilot schemes were hugely popular amongst residents. At the start of the trial the average approval rate (AAR) was 65%, at the conclusion the AAR was 91.2%. Introducing them across the borough will mean our roads will be even cleaner, our recycling rates will increase and our costs will diminish. "

Councillor Barnbrook expressed his support for the scheme but also queried why the Council had not implemented the scheme sooner, claiming that it was a BNP party proposal in 2007.

Councillor Justice stated his opposition to the scheme, indicating that he struggled to understand the finances set out in the report, for example, how the scheme could be cheaper when it required more vehicles and more staff. He claimed that the 10% of people who did not welcome the scheme were being ignored and he felt, therefore, that the decision was being railroaded through.

Councillors Carpenter, Carroll, McCarthy and Liam Smith expressed their support for the scheme and indicated that many residents would often ask when they would be supplied with the bins. Those supporters included, amongst them,

people who had initially opposed wheelie bins. The Members reiterated the importance of going through a pilot process in order that risks, finance and feasibility were carefully assessed. They also reported that the wheelie bins proposal was initially raised in the 2006 Waste Strategy, it had therefore been a long, thorough and consultative process and not railroaded as suggested by Councillor Justice.

The Motion was put to the vote and **agreed** as follows:

For: Councillors Alexander, Bailey, Barnbrook, Barns, Bramley, Buckley, Carpenter, Carroll, Collins, Clair Doncaster, Sandra Doncaster, Ronald Doncaster, Denyer, Fani, Flint, Rocky Gill, Hemmett, Hunt, Jamu, Jarvis, Kallar, Knight, Lansdown, McCarthy, McDermott, McKenzie, Patricia Northover, Warren Northover, Poulton, Rawlinson, Reason, Rush, Liam Smith, Nadine Smith, Steed, Tuffs, Vincent, Philip Waker and West.

Against: Councillor Justice.

Abstain: None.

Motion 3. Supporting local jobs for local people

Moved by Councillor Liam Smith and seconded by Councillor Vincent

"This Council congratulates the work of Trade Unions in the recent oil refinery dispute. The deal they brokered created 102 new jobs at the Lindsey refinery. This is a good deal which establishes the principle of fair access for U.K. workers on British construction projects. Barking and Dagenham backs the principle of fair access for local people to local jobs and we make this a reality in the contracts we let."

The following amendment was then moved by Councillor Bailey and seconded by Councillor Barnbrook:

"This Council congratulates the heroic struggle by 1,000-plus construction engineers, supported by walk-outs at 20-plus other sites, resulting in a victory for the workers at the Lindsey refinery. This Council also condemns the fact that 3.8million people born overseas are working in the UK according to figures released by the Office for National Statistics. This Council also recognises that this is a direct result of this Labour Government's out-of-control immigration policies which have led to the British worker's plight of having to fight for their right to local jobs in their own country and therefore reflects this by backing the principle of fair access to local jobs in the awarding of contracts Barking & Dagenham Council lets."

Councillor Barnbrook claimed that his father and brother in-law had given him first hand information of how the Lindsey oil refinery strikes were initiated. He alleged that wildcat strikes were called by workers who were unsupported by the unions. He urged Members to congratulate those workers who had initially taken the stand against contracts being awarded to foreign workers and not the unions who were

initially against strike action. He also alleged that local feeling towards the foreign contracts grew because the workers employed were Albanians using Italian passports and were being paid less than the minimum wage.

Councillor McCarthy condemned the amendment's reference to 3.8m overseas workers as that figure would, by default, include Irish workers. He therefore requested that any reference to supporting people of Irish origin be removed from all BNP literature as the amendment condemned them. He expressed his support for the original motion saying that trade unions continued to have an important role to play within communities by representing workers and fighting for their rights.

Councillor Phil Waker stated that the bosses of Lindsey oil refinery were wrong to take cheaper labour over local needs. He was also pleased to note that the Prime Minister supported industrial action on this occasion. Councillor Phil Waker spoke of being an active member of trade unions and explained that industrial action may not always appear organised but it would not be possible without some form of coordination and it was very often the unions working behind the scenes to generate support for industrial action.

Councillors Carpenter and McDermott indicated their support for the original motion. They agreed with the principle of local jobs for local people with the support of trade unions and made reference to the manufacturing industry within the borough including, the growth of new types of industry such as, the Sustainable Industrial Park around the Environmental Technology Resource Centre at Dagenham Dock.

In summarising Councillor Bailey alleged that unions and the Labour party did not support one another as they had done in the past. He also claimed that the Prime Minister had stolen the BNP minority party's slogan of British jobs for British people.

The amendment was put to the vote and was **not agreed** as follows:

For: Councillors Bailey, Barnbrook, Buckley, Jarvis, Knight, Lansdown and Tuffs.

Against: Councillors Alexander, Barns, Bramley, Carpenter, Carroll Collins, Denyer, Flint, Rocky Gill, Hemmett, Hunt, Jamu, Kallar, McCarthy, McDermott, McKenzie, Patricia Northover, Warren Northover, Poulton, Reason, Rush, Liam Smith, Nadine Smith, Vincent, Philip Waker and White.

Abstain: Councillor Justice.

The original motion was put to the vote and was **agreed** as follows:

For: Councillors Alexander, Barns, Bramley, Carpenter, Carroll Collins, Denyer, Flint, Rocky Gill, Hemmett, Hunt, Jamu, Kallar, McCarthy, McDermott, McKenzie, Patricia Northover, Warren Northover, Poulton, Reason, Rush, Liam Smith, Nadine Smith, Vincent, Philip Waker and White.

Against: Councillors Bailey, Barnbrook, Buckley, Jarvis, Knight, Lansdown and Tuffs.

Abstain: Councillor Justice.

Motion 4. Calling on the Government to let councils build their own council houses

Moved by Councillor McDermott and seconded by Councillor Poulton

"This Council will ask the Government to let the Council keep all the money it collects from rents and sales and let it reinvest it in upgrading existing council houses and building new ones, lift the restrictive rules on which organisations can build and manage council houses and give councils like ours the upfront investment it needs to get things moving."

The following amendment was then moved by Councillor Bailey and seconded by Councillor Barnbrook:

"This Labour controlled Council will ask the Labour Government to let the Council reinvest the money from rents and capital receipts to build urgently needed council homes for local residents, in line with the British National Party policy, lifting the restrictive rules on which organisations can build and manage council houses and give councils like ours the upfront investment it needs to get things moving"

Councillors Carpenter and Phil Waker indicated their support for the original motion, raising a number of points such as: a petition to 10 Downing Street signed by over 2000 residents saying no tax on tenants, opting out of the housing revenue account, which the government sometimes used to pay for other housing in richer areas, if the Council kept its own housing funds it could use the money for loft conversions so people could stay in their own houses as their families grow or build new Council houses.

Councillor Justice also indicated his support for the motion but also called for a solution to the damp and fungus affecting a number of council tenants.

Councillor Liam Smith spoke in support of the motion and reminded Members that the Government was looking at a reform in housing policy. He reported that the borough was one of a few local authorities that had retained their housing stock in response to the needs of the local communities. He also recognised the damp problem in the borough but advised that in some cases peoples' lifestyles led to the problem therefore education and communication was needed to help the borough's residents. He expressed his desire to see the Mayor of London impose tougher sanctions on those authorities that did not meet targets for building Council housing stock warning that not enough social housing in other local authorities could have a detrimental impact on the borough in the future.

In responding to Councillor Barnbrook's criticisms he advised that the right-to buy scheme was being phased out but that in principle it was a good scheme because it had given people aspirations to be mobile and offered people choice. He claimed that the Government should have had the foresight to replace the scheme.

He also said that the existing housing policy was driven by the Council's legal obligation to provide housing based on a person's established need and that it was the fairest and most transparent system for housing people.

The amendment was put to the vote and was **not agreed** as follows:

For: Councillors Bailey, Barnbrook, Buckley, Jarvis and Lansdown.

Against: Councillors Alexander, Barns, Bramley, Carpenter, Carroll Collins, Denyer, Flint, Rocky Gill, Hemmett, Hunt, Jamu, Justice, Kallar, McCarthy, McDermott, McKenzie, Patricia Northover, Warren Northover, Poulton, Reason, Rush, Liam Smith, Nadine Smith, Vincent, Philip Waker and White.

Abstain: Councillor Tuffs.

The original motion was put to the vote and was **agreed** as follows:

For: Councillors Alexander, Barns, Bramley, Carpenter, Carroll Collins, Denyer, Flint, Rocky Gill, Hemmett, Hunt, Jamu, Justice, Kallar, McCarthy, McDermott, McKenzie, Patricia Northover, Warren Northover, Reason, Rush, Liam Smith, Nadine Smith, Vincent, Philip Waker and White.

Against: Councillors Bailey, Barnbrook, Buckley, Jarvis and Lansdown.

Abstain: Councillor Tuffs.

Motions 5. Ensuring residents get the improvements they want in the Heathway

Moved by Councillor Reason seconded by Councillor Barns

"This Council welcomes the decision to review the quality of work done on the Heathway. This Council would like to see that changes be made on the Heathway to better reflect what local residents need and want"

Councillors Phil Waker and Liam Smith indicated their support for the scheme, they raised the following points in commending the motion:

- congratulations to officers for taking on board residents' concerns,
- crediting the Council for admitting its mistakes and taking steps to rectify them, and,
- the partnership with Transport for London (TfL) was not as expected and, therefore, concerns of residents and Members were ignored.

Councillors Bailey and Barnbrook also commended the motion and asked that the timing of the traffic lights on the Heathway be rectified as part of any improvement.

In response to comments from Councillor Justice, Councillor McCarthy highlighted

the significance of the Heathway as a major component in the strategic regeneration of the borough. Mistakes had been made on the Heathway by TfL and the Council had to invest in order to correct those. He confirmed that investments were being made to regenerate other shopping parades in the borough.

The motion was put to the vote and was **agreed** as follows:

For: Councillors Alexander, Bailey, Barnbrook, Barns, Bramley, Carpenter, Carroll Collins, Denyer, Flint, Rocky Gill, Hemmett, Hunt, Jamu, Justice, Kallar, Lansdown, McCarthy, McDermott, McKenzie, Patricia Northover, Warren Northover, Reason, Rush, Liam Smith, Nadine Smith, Vincent, Philip Waker and White.

Against: None

Abstain: Councillor Jarvis.

80. Leader's Question Time

No questions received.

81. General Question Time

Question from Councillor Carpenter

“Will the Council’s proposed new publication carry adverts for massages and illicit DVDs like some of the local newspapers?”

Response from Councillor Liam Smith

“Absolutely Not.”

Question from Councillor Poulton

“Can the Council be advised on what kind of work the Recession Task Force is planning to do?”

Response from Councillor Liam Smith

“The role of the Recession Task force is to meet with all partners including businesses, residents and interested parties to examine potential actions to help boost the local economy. The task force will also conduct a communication and education campaign encouraging residents to buy local goods from local businesses and source services from local providers and encourage businesses to fill jobs with local people. The task force will ensure the Council listens to the needs and concerns of residents, businesses and elected Members.

THE ASSEMBLY

1 APRIL 2009

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE

Title: The Executive - Recent Business	For Decision	
<p>Summary</p> <p>On 24 March 2009 the Executive will be asked to make recommendations to the Assembly following their consideration of the following reports:</p> <p>(i) The Barking and Dagenham Community Strategy - The proposed Community Strategy sets out a new vision for the Barking and Dagenham Local Strategic Partnership – Working together for a better borough and six new Community Priorities which are: Safe; Clean; Fair and Respectful; Healthy; Prosperous; Inspired and Successful.</p> <p>(ii) Barking and Dagenham Council Plan Update 2009-10 Incorporating the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2009-10 to 2011-12 – This is an update on a previous report considered by the Executive on 18 November 2008 and the Assembly on 8 December 2008 setting out the Council’s vision, values and priorities in the Council Plan. This report identifies the links with the Community Strategy and incorporates the MTFS which sets out the financial strategy for delivering the Council’s Priorities. It is an annual update for the three year plan covering 2008-10.</p> <p>The recommendations of both of these reports will be reported to the Assembly.</p> <p>Members are asked to refer to The Barking and Dagenham Community Strategy and the draft Council Plan 2008-2010 which were issued with the Executive Agenda of 24 March 2009. These reports are also available to view from the council reports website at the following address: http://moderngov.barking-dagenham.gov.uk.</p>		
<p>Contact: Sola Odusina</p>	<p>Senior Democratic Services Officer</p>	<p>Tel: 020 8227 3103 Fax: 020 8227 2171 Minicom: 020 8227 2685 E-mail: sola.odusina@lbbd.gov.uk</p>

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

None

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ASSEMBLY**1 APRIL 2009****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES**

Scrutiny - Political Structure Proposals	For Decision
<p>Summary:</p> <p>This report proposes a new form of political structure for Scrutiny following a comprehensive review, as requested by the Scrutiny Management Board on 21 January 2009 (Minute 68). The review has looked at best practice elsewhere, drawn on learning from the Parliamentary “select committee” model, and engaged with recognised experts, organisations and networks in the scrutiny field.</p> <p>Importantly, consideration has been given to how we might best deal with current and emerging legal requirements, including the new duty to scrutinise Local Area Agreements (LAA) and increased power to hold external bodies to account, the new duty to scrutinise the Crime and Disorder issues and the role Scrutiny will play in responding to Councillor Calls for Action (CCfAs). It has also looked at how functions such as Call-In and Urgent Action will be accommodated, and been mindful of the need to encourage community engagement. Lastly, the role of Policy Commissions has been considered.</p> <p>Consultation has been carried out with all Members, including specifically the Executive and the Scrutiny Management Board, statutory co-opted members, members of the Local Strategic Partnership, representatives of key partner agencies and senior officers. Responses were limited but those received indicated support for the proposal now recommended.</p> <p>The proposal is for a new approach based on a parliamentary select committee model to come into effect in the new Council year 2009/10. This includes five select committees, each of equal standing, reporting directly to the Assembly. Four of the select committees will be themed, with the fifth focusing on finance and resources and also undertaking the role of the current Audit Committee. Appendix One sets out the proposals in more detail, including issues such as membership and frequency of meetings. Appendix Two covers the proposed scope of the select committees and associated linkages.</p> <p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
<p>Recommendations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the proposals for a new political model for Scrutiny as outlined in Appendices One and Two be agreed in principle, enabling final Constitutional detail to be worked up and presented to the Assembly for adoption in May, with a view to the new structure taking effect from the beginning of the new Council year, 2009/10. Lead and Deputy Lead positions, and memberships of the Select 	

Committees will also be determined at the Annual Assembly meeting in the normal way.

2. That the Scrutiny Management Board, the Health Scrutiny Panel, the Audit Committee and Policy Commissions be disbanded at the end of the current Council year and, where still in existence, that they be asked to close off all outstanding business before then.

Implications

Financial: The Independent Remuneration Panel will be asked to consider any related issues in terms of Lead and Deputy Lead Member positions, and include any associated recommendations in their report to the Annual Assembly. However, it is not proposed that the new Scrutiny structure will cost any more than current arrangements and all costs will be contained within the existing budgets within Legal and Democratic Services.

Legal: There is a need to amend the current Scrutiny arrangements in the borough to fulfil the new statutory duties that will be placed on all Scrutiny functions from 1 April 2009. The Legal Partner for Corporate Law and Employment has confirmed that adopting the proposed model would enable the Council to meet these new duties.

Risk Management: Low Risk – The risk is that if we do not amend the current scrutiny arrangements we will be in breach of the new statutory duties.

Social Inclusion and Diversity: The proposed Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee would cover social inclusion and diversity issues within its remit.

Crime and Disorder: The Safer and Stronger Select Committee would have formal responsibility for scrutinising crime and disorder issues.

Options Appraisal: The initial consultation paper contained two main proposals for developing scrutiny, with possible variations. The first option considered building on existing scrutiny structures, but does not reflect best practice in that it fails to engage the majority of non-Executive Members in the Scrutiny process or provide a relevant role for the statutory education co-opted members. The second (proposed) option fulfils these requirements and also enables a more strategic approach to Scrutiny through closer alignment to the Local Strategic Partnership structure and community plan themes.

Contact Officer: Nina Clark	Title: Divisional Director of Legal and Democratic Services	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 2114 E-mail: nina.clark@lbbd.gov.uk
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Consultees:

- Councillor Fairbrass, Leader of the Council
- Councillor Twomey, Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board

- Councillor West, Lead Member of the Health Scrutiny Panel
- Councillor Agrawal, Chair of the Audit Committee
- Rob Whiteman, Chief Executive
- Bill Murphy, Corporate Director of Resources
- Nina Clark, Divisional Director of Legal and Democratic Services
- Winston Brown, Legal Partner
- Melanie Field, Legal Partner
- Joe Chesterton, Divisional Director of Corporate Finance
- Patrick Clackett, Head of Strategic Finance and Audit

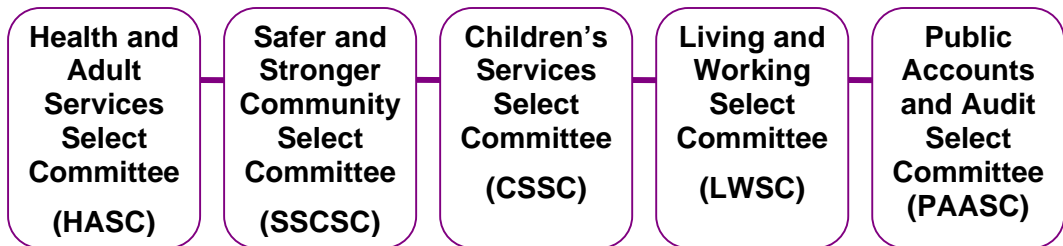
Background papers:

- Initial report to SMB setting out the terms of reference for a review of Scrutiny arrangements (21 January 2009), and minutes of this meeting.
- Follow-up report to SMB setting out proposals for developing the Scrutiny structure (4 March 2009), and minutes of this meeting.
- Report to the Executive setting out proposals for developing the Scrutiny structure (10 March 2009), and minutes of this meeting.
- Consultation paper, as sent to all Members and statutory co-opted members, senior council officers and local strategic partners on 25 February 2009, and responses received.

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1 STRUCTURE

- 1.1 Four themed (standing) Select Committees, arranged by thematic topic areas, plus a fifth to deal with finance and resources, any cross-cutting issues and the role of the Audit Committee.
- 1.2 All five Select Committees will have equal status and report to the Assembly:



2 MEMBERSHIP AND QUORUM

- 2.1 In keeping with best practice, a wider number of scrutiny roles will be available to non-Executive Members. The four themed Select Committees will consist of nine Members each. The PAASC will consist of six Members, four of whom will be the Lead Members of the other Select Committees.
- 2.2 Political balance will apply to all the Select Committees. The minority will be offered two places on each of the four themed Select Committees, and one place on the PAASC. The four statutory education co-optees will join the CSSC as voting members for any issues relating to education.
- 2.3 Each Select Committee will have a Lead Member and a Deputy Lead Member. As mentioned in paragraph 2.1, the Lead Members of the four themed Select Committees will also sit on the PAASC. One of these Lead Members will also take on the Deputy Lead Member role for the PAASC. The Lead Member for the PAASC will not lead any other Select Committees.
- 2.4 The quorum of each Select Committee will be three voting Members.

3 THE CONSTITUTION

- 3.1 The Scrutiny section of the Constitution will require significant amendment. Specific articles will be created in Part B for each of the Select Committees and Part C (Scheme of Delegation) will be altered accordingly. Appendix 2 provides a detailed breakdown of the proposed Select Committee remits and how these link to LAA priorities and corporate boards.
- 3.2 In addition, references to scrutiny will require revision throughout the document. In many cases this will simply involve updating references to the SMB. However, certain key areas will need specific attention such as Call-In and the new Councillor Call for Action concept:
- **Call-In** – the Divisional Director of Legal and Democratic Services will direct any Call-Ins to the appropriate Select Committee, and they will then follow the same process as is currently in place.
 - **Councillor Call for Action (CCfA)** – the Divisional Director of Legal and Democratic Services will direct any CCfAs received to the appropriate Select Committee.

4 MEETING LOGISTICS

- 4.1 The Select Committees will hold formal meetings on a six-weekly basis, starting at 6pm on Wednesdays.
- 4.2 Venues for formal meetings will be considered as part of the overall work on the Calendar of Meetings. Informal meetings and site visits will take place at community venues around the borough, as appropriate.

5. TRAINING AND MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

- 5.1 The first meeting of all the Select Committees will focus on training and briefing. The sessions will be split into two main sections; a generic introduction to scrutiny for all Select Committees, followed by a second segment tailored to the specific Committee's remit. This second half will cover aspects such as:
- Key legislation and national guidance relating to the specific remit
 - Key local issues and targets
 - An overview of associated partners / community groups
 - Best practice associated with the remit of the Select Committee.

- 5.2 Further training sessions will be available through the Member Development rolling programme, and additional training will be made available as needed.

6 PUBLICITY AND RAISING AWARENESS

- 6.1 It is intended that the launch of the new structure can be used as a springboard to raise Scrutiny's profile within the Council, amongst our partners and within the community.
- 6.2 Officers in the Scrutiny Team will be promoting the new structure using a range of internal communications.
- 6.3 Contact will also be made with external partners to confirm new arrangements and raise awareness. Scrutiny Officers will identify community groups with a likely interest in the Select Committee they support and will contact them directly to ensure they are informed about the work programme and encouraged to attend meetings.
- 6.4 Introductory leaflets on each Select Committee and what it does will be produced for members of the public seeking further information. This information will also be available on the Scrutiny pages on the Council website, which are currently under development.

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Appendix Two

Select Committee Remits

Title	Scope	Links
Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee	<p>Crime and Disorder, Safer Neighbourhoods, Voluntary Sector and Community Development, Community Cohesion, Councillor Call for Action (Crime and Disorder), Social Inclusion and Culture.</p> <p>Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Cohesion and Equalities • Community Safety and Neighbourhood Services • Leisure and Arts 	<p>External Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police • Probation • CVS / third sector <p>LSP sub groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Borough • Stronger Borough <p>Corporate Programme Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer, Stronger, Active and Healthy • Corporate Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion
Living and Working Select Committee	<p>Housing, public realm, environment, business & economics.</p> <p>Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Services • Environmental & Enforcement Services • Programme Director – Local Housing Company • Regeneration & Economic Development • Skills and Learning 	<p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Associations • Local business <p>LSP sub group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaner, Greener and Sustainable borough • Business, Jobs and Skills <p>Corporate Programme Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living and Working
Health and Adult Services Select Committee	<p>Health and adult services</p> <p>Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Commissioning • Adult Care Services • Mental Health (joint director) • Public Health (joint director) • Personalisation 	<p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NELFT • BHRHT • PCT • LINKs • External adult services providers <p>LSP sub group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier Borough <p>Corporate Programme Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer, Stronger, Active and Healthy
Children Services Select Committee	<p>Children’s services, children and young people’s social care and education.</p> <p>Council:</p>	<p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools / colleges • External children’s services providers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding & Rights • Quality & School Improvement • Integrated Family Services • Children's Policy & Trust Commissioning 	<p>LSP sub group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Trust <p>Corporate Programme Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Trust
Public Accounts and Audit Select Committee (cross-cutting)	<p>Governance, resources and customer care.</p> <p>Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources Directorate • Customer Strategy & Transformations • Barking and Dagenham Direct • Corporate policies • Current Audit Committee functions 	<p>LSP sub group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Services Board • Performance and Resources Board (informal) <p>Corporate Programme Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Barking and Dagenham • Strategic Commissioning and Procurement • Service and Financial Planning

Additional notes:

- 1) Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS): There are organisations within the wider umbrella of the CVS that will link to each of the different Select Committees. However, taken as a whole (for generic issues affecting the entire CVS, e.g. funding arrangements and so on) the CVS will fall under the remit of the Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee.
- 2) A number of issues have the potential for being of interest to more than one Select Committee. Examples include the 2012 Olympics, aspects of which could fall into the work programme of any of the Select Committees (health, community cohesion, regeneration, etc). Good housekeeping by the Scrutiny team and good communication between the Select Committees (through regular informal Lead Member meetings, and Scrutiny Support Officer feedback) will ensure that duplication is avoided.
- 3) Please note that the structure of the Corporate Programme Boards as set out in column three above is not yet finalised and is subject to possible change.

Main Scrutiny Remit	LAA Improvement Priorities (2008-2011)	Focus to achieve priorities, as identified by LAA	Additional Select Committee Links
Living and Working Select Committee	Skills and worklessness	Raise household incomes by getting unemployed people into jobs and those in jobs into better jobs Significantly improve the levels of adult skills and qualifications	Safer and Stronger Communities, Health and Adult Services
		Reduce NEETs NI 163 Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher	Children's Services
	A better place to do business	Attract and retain businesses by ensuring B&D is seen as safe, clean and business friendly	
	Housing	Encourage and facilitate business start ups	
		Provide more homes, especially affordable homes Create better places to live	Safer and Stronger Community
Health and Adult Services Select Committee	Health inequalities	Reduce mortality rates (especially for women)	
		Reduce smoking	
		Reduce obesity <input type="checkbox"/> especially in children	Children's Services
		Improving mental well <input type="checkbox"/> being	Safer and Stronger Community
Children's Services Select Committee	Children and young people's life chances	Increase qualifications <input type="checkbox"/> especially post GCSE	Living and Working
		Ensure there are more and better things for children and young people to do	
		Increase support for children with learning difficulties and disabilities	
		Increase support for children and adolescents with mental health needs	Health and Adult Services

		Reduce teen pregnancy	Health and Adult Services	
Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee	Be safe, feel safe	Ensure people feel safer in their neighbourhoods	Living and Working	
		Divert people from a life of crime and reduce re-offending		
		Reduce ASB	Children's Services	
	A strong community	Reduce Domestic Violence		
		Listen to people so they feel better able to influence decisions & services	All Select Committees	
		Ensure fair access to services		
		Provide opportunities for people to get on well together		
Public Accounts and Audit Select Committee	This Committee has an internal and audit focus.			

ASSEMBLY

1 APRIL 2009

REPORT OF THE GP SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

Title: GP Services Scrutiny Panel – Final Report	For Decision
<p>Summary: <i>Final reports of scrutiny panels are presented to the Scrutiny Management Board (SMB), the Executive and the Assembly, as required by Paragraph 11 of Article 5b of the Council's Constitution. The Assembly, together with any members of the public, may ask questions. It will be asked to formally adopt the report and its recommendations. It may move changes to the recommendations in which case the Lead Member (or representative) will be given the opportunity to respond before a vote is taken.</i></p> <p>On 17 September 2008, the Scrutiny Management Board commissioned an in-depth scrutiny of General Practitioner (GP) services and established a time-limited scrutiny panel to consider a number of wide-ranging issues.</p> <p>The Panel met between 22 September 2008 and 5 January 2009 to receive evidence, reports and presentations from a number of health professionals.</p> <p>The final report setting out the Panel's findings and recommendations was submitted to the Scrutiny Management Board on 21 January 2009 to consider and give any advice or suggestions prior to finalisation and formal presentation to the Executive on 10 March 2009 and Assembly on 1 April 2009.</p> <p>Once the report has been agreed by the Assembly, the Council will ask NHS Barking and Dagenham to respond to the recommendations and provide an implementation plan. A report setting out the progress of the implementation plan will be presented to the most relevant panel in any new political structure for Scrutiny at six months and at a year.</p> <p>A copy of the final report is attached as Appendix A.</p>	
<p>Recommendation: In order to assist the Council achieve its Community Priority of 'Improving health, housing and social care', the Assembly is recommended to agree the GP Services Scrutiny Panel's recommendations as set out in the report.</p>	
<p>Implications: Financial: There are no financial implications for the Council associated with this report.</p>	
<p>Legal: There are no legal implications for the Council associated with this report.</p>	
<p>Risk Management: No specific implications</p>	
<p>Social Inclusion and Diversity: None</p>	

Crime and Disorder: None.		
Options Appraisal: None		
Contact Officer for further details: Pat Brown Lead Member: Councillor Mrs M West	Title: Senior Scrutiny Officer, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 3271 Fax: 020 8227 2162 E-mail: pat.brown@lbbd.gov.uk

Consultees

A full and comprehensive list of Consultees is set out in Appendix Two.

1 LEAD MEMBER'S FOREWORD

General medical services in Barking and Dagenham have been changing and will continue to develop in response to a combination of factors – significant projected housing and population growth coupled with a 'vision' for future health services in London based on care outside hospitals from multi-disciplinary staff teams with new roles. The Thames Gateway and the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games developments provide both a catalyst and opportunity to make this vision a reality by accelerating modernisation of health services.

Over the last two years and for the next three years NHS Barking and Dagenham are investing significant resources to address the big challenges faced by general practice in meeting public expectations around access to and quality of general medical services. New health service policies, focusing on public health, better management of long term conditions and a modernised workforce and infrastructure, provide an additional stimulus for and means of enabling change in general practice and wider primary care services.

This review has attempted to identify some areas where further improvements could be made. As the topic of GP Services encompasses so many wide-ranging issues, and given the relatively short time-span allotted to this review, it was not possible to give thorough consideration to all aspects. Instead, we decided to focus on the key areas that would most benefit from scrutiny input, and to highlight other issues for possible future review as necessary.

I am grateful to all those who contributed and I trust that the recommendations put forward will assist those responsible for delivering GP services within the borough and benefit local residents.

Councillor Marie West, Lead Member of the GP Services Scrutiny Review Panel

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 On the 17 September 2008, the Scrutiny Management Board commissioned an in-depth scrutiny of General Practitioner (GP) services and established a time-limited scrutiny panel to undertake this work. Terms of reference for the Panel can be viewed in Appendix One.

2.2 The review was prompted by a number of considerations, as follows:

- In 2007, the Health Scrutiny Panel consulted with the local community to determine which health topic residents felt would benefit from a scrutiny review. The community identified primary care services, which are predominately delivered through GP practices, as a priority.
- The provision of GP services is strategically linked to the Council's Community Priority 'Improving health, housing and social care by providing the right care for vulnerable people, creating a better environment for healthy living, building

homes that suit people's needs and educating people on how to improve their own health.

- The choice of review topic also provided an opportunity to follow up work undertaken during the 2004 scrutiny review of access to primary care.

2.3 The GP Services Review Panel consisted of six Councillors and two lay members:

- Councillor Marie West (Lead Member)
- Councillor Bob Bailey
- Councillor John Denyer
- Councillor Mohammed Fani
- Councillor Kay Flint
- Councillor Terry Justice
- Mr. Jim Campe, Local Involvement Network (LINK) Member
- Ms. Sharon Moorton, GP Practice Manager

The Lead Services Officer for the review was Matthew Cole, Joint Director of Health Improvement. The Senior Scrutiny Officer was Pat Brown.

2.4 The Panel held five formal panel meetings between 22 September 2008 and 17 November 2008 to hear evidence from a number of health professionals. Members also undertook five site visits to small GP surgeries and the Broad Street Medical Centre to hear views from GPs, Practice Nurses, Practice Managers, Administration and Reception Staff and Patients.

Additional background information, listed in paragraph 6 of this report, was also made available to the Panel Full details of witnesses and site visits are given in Appendix Two.

3 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 In compiling the findings, the evidence gathered by the Panel has been grouped into key themes, and recommendations are presented with the relevant themes to provide context. For ease of reference the recommendations can be reviewed as a list in Appendix 3.

3.2 Quality and Outcomes Framework

Since the scrutiny review of access to primary care services in 2004, a new GP contract, Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), has been agreed nationally and GPs in the Borough have all signed the new contract.

QOF was an innovatory model of care introduced in the 2004 contract that, for the first time, emphasised the importance of chronic disease management and the standards of care that patients should expect. Indeed, the NHS now provides a unique worldwide model concentrating on these diseases.

Although not mandatory for GPs to sign up to QOF, NHS Barking and Dagenham would take a negative view of any practice that chose not to provide such services to patients.

The framework provides additional measurable clinical outcomes that now form part of the General Medical Services balanced scorecard, along with standards such as access times and the ratio of one GP to seventeen hundred patients, now achieved in Barking and Dagenham.

QOF now targets significant resource investment into general practice and those that score within the desired range.

The process of revalidation of the GP's licence will be introduced in 2009 and involve two strands:

- Re-licensing (confirming that doctors practise in accordance with the General Medical Council's generic standards); and
- Recertification (confirming that doctors on the specialist and GP registers conform with standards appropriate for their specialty of medicine).

The Panel received reports setting out how GPs meet the required standards and the procedures NHS Barking and Dagenham have in place to assist GPs who do not meet the standards.

Across the borough GP practices undertake essential services, but can select the additional and enhanced services that they provide for their patients. The following services that are part of the QOF contract that was introduced in 2004:

Essential services - these are services expected of any general practice, such as the availability of appointments, diagnostic and treatment services, the management of patients who believe themselves to be ill, appropriate referral to other agencies, the management of long term illnesses and conducting appropriate home visits.

Additional services – these include cervical screening, immunisations, contraceptive services, child health surveillance and maternity services, but exclude confinement care, minor surgery procedures including cautery (to seal a wound or to destroy damaged or infected tissue by burning), curettage (a surgical procedure to remove unwanted growths or other tissue) and cryocautery (a procedure that destroys tissue by freezing).

Enhanced services – these are services delivered to a higher standard and specification than essential services. They are commissioned by NHS Barking and Dagenham and will reflect local health priorities. Enhanced Services are divided into:

- **National Enhanced Services** – national specifications determined centrally to meet local needs, such as monitoring of anticoagulant treatment (to prevent blood from clotting) or intrapartum care (such as post natal depression).
- **Direct Enhanced Services** - such as services for violent patients.
- **Local Enhanced Services** - enhanced services that specifically reflect local health needs, such as alcohol and substance misuse services.

3.3 Infrastructure development programme

In addition to the requirements of the new GP contract, an ambitious infrastructure development programme is in progress in Barking and Dagenham, including eighteen multipurpose, community-based health facilities funded by the Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) process and GP third party developments.

One example is a '24 hour hub' on the Barking Hospital site, which is planned to include a walk-in centre, an urgent care service and a birthing unit, alongside numerous other services. Others include the planned Porter's Avenue Chronic Disease Management Centre and the Barking Town Centre Children and Young People Health Promotion Centre. Barking and Dagenham has a good record of working with other organisations to improve health.

Other innovative models that Barking and Dagenham has introduced are the virtual young people's service and alternative providers of medical services, such as Broad Street, which is a combined practice and walk-in centre.

3.4 Healthcare for London

The Panel has noted the outcomes from 'Healthcare for London: Consulting the Capital'. The consultation was intended to explore and develop new ways to improve the healthcare of Londoners over the next ten years. The outcome of the consultation will have significant implications on how local GP services are delivered and new models of service.

The key driver is the pressure to address performance in general practice, centralise hospital-based care and the requirement to unpack those parts of current hospital care that can be provided locally or in networks of care from those that must be based in a specialist institution, i.e. specialist unit or local hospital.

NHS Barking and Dagenham is required to produce commissioning strategy plans for 2009/10 that set out the changes being made to services commissioned to deliver the 'Healthcare for London' vision for general medical services. NHS Barking and Dagenham will be expected to communicate their plans to the public, patients and key stakeholders.

Despite year on year improvements in general practice, significant variation in performance exists against a range of standards and targets, between practices and against comparators within London and nationally.

Based on standards and best practice, NHS Barking and Dagenham operates a Balanced Scorecard to assess practices.

3.5 Extended hours

NHS Barking and Dagenham piloted the GP extended hours scheme, which has proved very popular with patients. The pilot has now finished and the Panel strongly supports NHS Barking and Dagenham's decision to continue funding the scheme and plans to ensure that new surgeries will be required to adopt extended hours.

In general, GPs operating under the current extended hours scheme do not open on a Saturday morning. The Panel recognises that asking every practice to offer a Saturday morning surgery may not be necessary, and could potentially lead to a waste of resources in areas where there are several GP surgeries operating in very close proximity.

Recommendation 1: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham investigate ways to encourage GPs to provide Saturday morning surgeries, on an appointment only basis. To avoid wasting resources and in order to promote a healthy work life balance, the Panel suggests that NHS Barking and Dagenham look at a range of models including a rotation system. The Panel notes that, under such a system, patients requiring a Saturday morning appointments would be required to give permission for their records to be shared with the GP on duty.

3.6 Polyclinics and the Hub and Spoke model for delivery of GP services

As part of the Government's review of the NHS, Lord Darzi, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health, has presented his vision for the delivery of future healthcare in London. The polyclinic model proposed was of a large GP practice covering 50,000 patients, with a range of other health professionals and services under the same roof, to improve a more locally based and integrated health service. There has been widespread media coverage, often with a negative focus reporting the demise of the local GP and replacement with super-sized practices. However, many of the other services proposed for polyclinics are currently only offered at hospitals out of the Borough for Barking and Dagenham residents.

One of London's first examples of a polyclinic is being commissioned by NHS Redbridge on the border with Barking and Dagenham. The Loxford Centre is the first purpose built polyclinic centre and is scheduled to open in the spring of 2009. It will be situated in the most deprived area of Redbridge and will provide the full range of polyclinic services with extended access hours. Eleven GP practices will form part of the network.

It is now widely accepted that the small single GP practice model can no longer meet the diverse needs of our large urban communities. The Department of Health has stated that health centres with more than one doctor and some specialists can deliver integrated, extended and more convenient services for patients, and this has already been put in place in some areas. However, the Department has also stated that local people and clinicians will decide what is most appropriate for their community.

NHS Barking and Dagenham has reviewed the various options for polyclinics and how they fit the needs of residents in the borough, and is proposing to deliver the full range of polyclinic services through a 'Hub and Spoke model'. The 'Hub' is a large medical centre, such as the Broad Street Medical Centre, but houses a much smaller general practice (list size 6,000 to 10,000 patients) and greater population coverage for primary care services is achieved through links with existing general practices. Primary care hub services will have referral pathways to current GP services so that patients choosing to be registered elsewhere will still be able to access the specialist services a primary care hub can offer.

NHS Barking and Dagenham has stated that all service providers in these facilities will be commissioned to take advantage of their co-location to deliver a joined-up approach to care and a seamless service for the patient.

The Panel endorses NHS Barking and Dagenham's view that the Hub and Spoke model will create a more flexible service and will be better able to meet the needs of local residents, GPs and health staff, and will be interested to hear the results of public consultation on these proposals.

Recommendation 2: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham actively and widely consult patients and health professionals regarding the Hub and Spoke model proposed for the delivery of GP services. If the consultation response is favourable, it is recommended that the model be implemented at the earliest possible time, and that regular updates be provided to local residents informing them of progress and services available throughout the Borough.

3.7 The ageing GP community and recruitment proposals

There are a high number of GPs in the Borough nearing the state retirement age and it is recognised that some new GPs must be recruited to the Borough. NHS Barking and Dagenham has been working hard with some success in recruitment of additional GPs.

Other steps being taken include the setting up of GPs with special interest and the new grade of general practitioner, namely, the salaried general practitioner¹. Now that the Borough is being funded at a higher and more appropriate level, NHS Barking and Dagenham is investing in premises, resources and improved doctor / patient ratios, which is assisting in attracting new GPs.

Recommendation 3: The Panel supports the proactive approach currently being taken to recruiting health professionals, and notes the importance of achieving the target of one hundred and one full time equivalent GPs by March 2009. The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham be mindful of the importance of prioritising specialist services and achieving gender balance when recruiting new GPs, in order to meet the needs of our local multicultural community.

3.8 Premises

A number of GP surgeries are run from adapted residential properties, which have small access doors and corridors. Many of these do not meet full accessibility requirements and are currently submitting bids to NHS Barking and Dagenham for a grant to upgrade premises.

Recommendation 4: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham ensure that all GP premises meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and provide reasonable access for patients of all disabilities, including adequate access for patients who require aids for mobility problems.

Recommendation 5: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham encourage sufficient car parking and access for ambulance transport at new medical

¹ The salaried general practitioner can be employed by either a GP practice or NHS Barking and Dagenham, working to a job description, funded by the innovative resourcing structure introduced by the QOF contract.

centres and, where possible, ensure that existing GP surgery parking facilities are upgraded.

3.9 Training

The Panel was concerned to hear some of reports relating to the training of Practice Nurses and administration staff, including Practice Managers. Although GP funding includes provision for training of staff, it appears this has not always been encouraged or made available.

General training, such as customer care, health and safety, and equal opportunities, is provided free of charge by NHS Barking and Dagenham. Practice Nurse training, including refresher courses, is also available. With regard to training of Practice Managers, this is available out-of-borough and has to be fifty percent (currently £600 to £700) funded by GPs. None of the above training is mandatory.

Recommendation 6: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham pursue the ring-fencing of GP funding for ongoing staff training.

Recommendation 7: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham develop and distribute guidance on the following training standards for practice staff, and promote and monitor the implementation of these standards:

- 1) That mandatory accredited induction training, including customer care, should be identified for all new reception and administrative staff and included as part of their terms and conditions of employment and job descriptions.
- 2) That new Practice Managers should be required to undertake accredited training, funded from the GP training budget, as part of the terms and conditions of employment and job description.
- 3) That all Practice Nurses attend refresher courses and development training.

3.10 Phlebotomy Services (blood testing)

Health professionals in GP practices are willing and able to take blood samples from patients for testing. A courier service collects the samples from GP surgeries and medical centres to transport them to the hospital for testing.

The courier service collects samples in the morning only, as some blood tests need to be carried out within a short timeframe. However, in order for the courier service to pick up samples from individual GP surgeries around the borough, the courier would have to collect either prior to, or soon after, surgery opening times. This makes it very difficult for those patients who require assistance to attend the surgery in the early morning.

Recommendation 8: The Panel recommends that GP surgeries within the same local area should provide the blood testing service on a rota basis, to achieve less and later pick-ups for the courier service.

3.11 Cross-boundary billing

To further enable local services for local people, the Government has recently announced that cross-boundary billing will be considered for implementation.

Currently, the responsibility for primary care services lies with the borough in which the patient is resident. However, a number of people live on the edge of neighbouring boroughs and have to travel across their home borough to receive appropriate medical services, when they are delivered in very close proximity to their home across the borough boundary.

The Panel understands that a reciprocal system is currently in place with a neighbouring borough, but unfortunately not with others.

Recommendation 9: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham take the lead in negotiating with all neighbouring boroughs to implement cross-boundary billing as soon as possible, as is already in place for acute services and Hospital Trusts and community services through the 'Choose and Book' system.

3.12 Improving access for young people

The Panel received some preliminary results from a consultation with young people entitled "Designing Accessible General Practice Services for Children and Young People: Mapping Service Provision". Forty per cent of BAD (Barking and Dagenham) Youth Forum representatives that responded to the consultation indicated that there had been times when they wanted to see a GP without their parents, and forty four percent said they did not have access to a same sex GP. Responses from some young women indicated that they often perceived hostility from practice staff and GPs, and that they felt the age and gender of GPs was a significant contributory factor to the level of comfort when using GP services.

The Panel believes there is a need for GPs and health professionals to engage more effectively with young people and to provide confidential access in schools and/or youth clubs. Such an approach would also assist in educating young people on a one-to-one basis about a variety of health issues, such as smoking, teenage pregnancy, drugs and the best use of any prescription medication.

Recommendation 10: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham work with GP services to put in place the following measures to improve access for young people:

- 1) On reaching 16 years of age, all young people should be invited by their GPs to a confidential consultation without their parents to discuss any health related issues.
- 2) GP sessions (a mixture of drop-in and appointment-based) should be offered at a central location in Dagenham and in schools at the end of the school day (for example, between 3.30pm and 5.00pm).
- 3) A website for young people to ask questions on line about health related issues should be developed in consultation with young people.

3.13 Pharmacy Services

The Panel received a presentation from Mr. Sunrinder Kalsi, an independent pharmacist who has worked in the local community for over twenty years. The Panel was interested to note the level of skills and training required, and the number of services that pharmacists could offer patients without having to make an appointment (for example, blood pressure screening).

There are specialist pharmacists in the borough that are qualified to monitor patients following a stroke or heart attack. This can benefit the patient by reducing the time involved, for example half an hour at the pharmacy instead of potentially spending half a day at a hospital located some way from their home. The Panel also heard that pharmacies are often open longer hours than GP surgeries, at weekends, sometimes late at night and/or on bank holidays.

The Panel was pleased to note that GPs in the borough work closely with pharmacists, recognising the benefit to their patients.

Recommendation 11: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham continue to work with local pharmacists to further publicise the services they provide and the availability of confidential consultation facilities.

Recommendation 12: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham encourage the use by GPs and Patients of the process by which GPs can issue six prescriptions of one month's supply of medication to be held by a local pharmacist, nominated by the patient. The Panel suggests that the pharmacy should assume responsibility to monitor the correct use of the medication.

Recommendation 13: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham should attempt, where possible, to ensure that a pharmacist is located within medical centres or in very close proximity to GP services when planning services at new surgeries and medical centres.

Recommendation 14: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham develop and put in place procedures for the safe disposal of unused end of life medication by agencies in partnership with the patient's relatives.

3.14 Public information

The Panel heard that many residents are not aware of the full range of primary care services available, who to contact or where non-emergency treatment can be accessed. If their GP is not available, patients, especially children and young people with asthma, gastrointestinal disturbances and Ears, Nose and Throat conditions, present themselves to the Accident and Emergency Department at their local hospital. This inappropriate use of services by patients can lead to a delay in those requiring emergency treatment.

The Panel felt this could be a result of the right information not being presented to users in an effective and clear way. This issue was highlighted when the Panel heard that some patients did not attend the Broad Street Medical Centre because they thought it was a facility for private patients only.

Recommendation 15: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham work with the Public Health Network to develop a joint protocol to publicise health messages, changes of policy and consultations.

Recommendation 16: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham develop a customer access strategy and improve the marketing of services to all residents, including, once the new medical centres are constructed and operational, the distribution to all properties in the Borough a concise health directory booklet, outlining specialist services available, opening times and locations. The publication should be vibrant and headline text carefully worded to encourage its use and retention by residents. The Panel believes this will greatly assist residents to locate the most appropriate health service to meet their needs.

3.15 Staff issues

In general, the Panel was very impressed with the health professionals and staff they met during the course of the review and recognised that the delivery of services is at times carried out in very challenging and emotional circumstances.

The Panel was informed that recruitment of practice nurses and nurse practitioners to the privately owned medical centres, such as the Broad Street Medical Centre, was particularly difficult because the current rules of the NHS Pension Scheme do not allow staff to continue their membership, even though they are delivering health services solely under the NHS.

The Locum service used by local GPs was discussed and concern was raised with regard to the communication skills of some locum and salaried GPs with patients. The Panel recognised that NHS Barking and Dagenham recruitment process adhered to the absolute requirement of oral and written communication skills of all new primary care staff, including GPs.

Recommendation 17: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking Dagenham investigate and / or lobby to ensure that staff working in privately built clinics (such as the Broad Street Medical Centre) that are specifically employed to deliver NHS services are able to continue their membership of the NHS pension scheme.

Recommendation 18: The Panel recommends that, in line with the GP's Code of Conduct and their professional duty, NHS Barking and Dagenham should strongly advise local GPs to assess and engage locums and salaried GPs with appropriate communication skills for all segments of the community.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Given the large topic area encompassed by GP services, it was not possible for the Panel to thoroughly investigate all issues that potentially could have been included in the review. Members specifically identified the appointment system and multi-agency receptions as issues worthy of further investigation.

Scrutiny Management Board may wish to establish panels to undertake further scrutiny of these issues at a future stage.

5 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Minutes and papers of GP Services Review Scrutiny Panel meetings
- Your Health, Your Care, Your Say Consultation Survey results
- Enhanced services available through individual GP Practices
- Healthcare for London consultation summary
- Prescriptions dispensed in the community 1997-2007
- Healthcare Commission survey 2008 – Better Access to GPs

GP Services Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference

- 1) To review the progress made so far in implementing the recommendations arising from the 2004 scrutiny review of GP services provision. This will involve focusing on the following areas:
 - Appointments
 - Opening times
 - The use of primary care premises and physical access
 - Training for receptionists
 - Access to services for different groups
 - Resources for primary care
- 2) To understand and assess public perceptions of the availability and quality of GP services in the borough, specifically in the light of the public consultation exercise undertaken last year (as reported to the Health Scrutiny Panel on 9 July 08), and input from Barking and Dagenham Local Involvement Network (LINK).
- 3) To consider the impact of the 'Healthcare for London' plan on local GP services.
- 4) To understand the latest position on the planned development of polyclinics.
- 5) To review best practice nationally and in other local authorities, including the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBD)'s statistical neighbours.
- 6) To consider any related equalities and diversity implications, and to encourage members of the public to engage with this important issue.
- 7) To report back to the Health Scrutiny Panel and Scrutiny Management Board with findings and recommendations for future policy and/or practice.

Contributors to the review

The following people submitted reports or presented evidence at formal Panel meetings:

22 September 2008	Pat Brown – Senior Scrutiny Officer, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
	Matthew Cole – Joint Director of Health Improvement, NHS Barking and Dagenham and London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
6 October 2008	Dr. Eric Saunderson - Medical Director, NHS Barking and Dagenham
20 October 2008	Colin Alderman – Head of Contracting, General Practice and Marketing, NHS Barking and Dagenham
	Jemma Gilbert - Assistant Director of Primary Care Contracting, NHS Barking and Dagenham
3 November 2008	Jemma Gilbert - Assistant Director of Primary Care Contracting, NHS Barking and Dagenham
	Matthew Cole – Joint Director of Health Improvement, NHS Barking and Dagenham and London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
17 November 2008	Sunrinder Kalsi - Pharmacist
	Alison Holloway – Nurse Practitioner
1 December 2008	Pat Brown – Senior Scrutiny Officer, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

The following people assisted the Panel by making contributions at one or more of the following site visits undertaken:

GP Surgery Dagenham	<p>Dr. Assadullah</p> <p>Dr. Pervez</p> <p>Susan Gibbins - Practice Manager</p> <p>Various staff members and patients</p>
GP Surgery Dagenham	<p>Dr. Fateh</p> <p>Daphne Brown - Practice Manager</p> <p>Various staff members and patients</p>
Broad Street Medical Centre	<p>Ms. T. Mayer - Practice Manager</p> <p>Various staff members and patients</p>

The Panel is very grateful to all those who took part in this review.

List of Recommendations

The following recommendations are set out here as a list, for ease of reference.

Recommendation 1: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham investigate ways to encourage GPs to provide Saturday morning surgeries, on an appointment only basis. To avoid wasting resources and in order to promote a healthy work life balance, the Panel suggests that NHS Barking and Dagenham look at a range of models, including a rotation system. The Panel notes that, under such a system, patients requiring a Saturday morning appointments would be required to give permission for their records to be shared with the GP on duty.

Recommendation 2: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham actively and widely consult patients and health professionals regarding the hub and spoke model proposed for the delivery of GP services. If the consultation response is favourable, it is recommended that the model be implemented at the earliest possible time, and that regular updates be provided to local residents informing them of progress and services available throughout the Borough.

Recommendation 3: The Panel supports the proactive approach currently being taken to recruiting health professionals, and notes the importance of achieving the target of one hundred and one full time equivalent GPs by March 2009. The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham be mindful of the importance of prioritising specialist services and achieving gender balance when recruiting new GPs, in order to meet the needs of our local multicultural community.

Recommendation 4: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham ensure that all GP premises meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and provide reasonable access for patients of all disabilities, including adequate access for patients who require aids for mobility problems.

Recommendation 5: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham encourage sufficient car parking and access for ambulance transport at new medical centres and, where possible, ensure that existing GP surgery parking facilities are upgraded.

Recommendation 6: The Panel strongly recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham pursue the ring-fencing of GP funding for ongoing staff training.

Recommendation 7: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham develops and distributes guidance on the following training standards for practice staff, and promotes and monitors the implementation of these standards:

- 1) That mandatory accredited induction training, including customer care, should be identified for all new reception and administrative staff and included as part of their terms and conditions of employment and job descriptions.
- 2) That new Practice Managers should be required to undertake accredited training, funded from the GP training budget, as part of the terms and conditions of employment and job description.

- 3) That all Practice Nurses should attend refresher courses and development training.

Recommendation 8: The Panel recommends that GP surgeries within the same local area should provide the blood testing service on a rota basis, to achieve less and later pick-ups for the courier service.

Recommendation 9: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham take the lead in negotiating with all neighbouring boroughs to implement cross-boundary billing as soon as possible, as is already in place for acute services and Hospital Trusts.

Recommendation 10: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham work with GP services to put in place the following measures to improve access for young people:

- 1) On reaching 16 years of age, all young people should be invited by their GPs to a confidential consultation without their parents to discuss any health related issues.
- 2) GP sessions (a mixture of drop-in and appointment-based) should be offered at a central location in Dagenham and in schools at the end of the school day (for example, between 3.30pm and 5.00pm).
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Recommendation 15: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham work with the Public Health Network to develop a joint protocol to publicise health messages, changes of policy and consultations.

Recommendation 16: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking and Dagenham develop a customer access strategy and improve the marketing of services to all residents, including, once the new medical centres are constructed and operational, the distribution to all properties in the Borough a concise health directory booklet, outlining specialist

services available, opening times and locations. The publication should be vibrant and headline text carefully worded to encourage its use and retention by residents. The Panel believes this will greatly assist residents to locate the most appropriate health service to meet their needs.

Recommendation 17: The Panel recommends that NHS Barking Dagenham investigate and / or lobby to ensure that staff working in privately built clinics (such as the Broad Street Medical Centre) that are specifically employed to deliver NHS services are able to continue their membership of the NHS pension scheme.

Recommendation 18: The Panel recommends that, in line with the GP's Code of Conduct and their professional duty, NHS Barking and Dagenham should strongly advise local GPs to assess and engage locums and salaried GPs with appropriate communication skills for all segments of the community.

NHS Barking and Dagenham are asked to report back on all recommendations regarding their implementation or progress in March 2009.

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THE ASSEMBLY**1 APRIL 2009**

Title: Motions	For Decision
<p>The following motions have been received in accordance with paragraph 15 of Article 2, Part B of the Council's Constitution:</p> <p>1 Welcoming the Council's plans for Saint George's Day</p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Jamu</p> <p>"The Council welcomes news that this Labour Council plans to hold Saint George's Day celebrations this year across the borough. The Council acknowledges that the borough should do more to celebrate Saint George's Day and hopes that the planned events will be popular and well attended."</p> <p>2 Homes not caravans</p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Liam Smith</p> <p>"This Council believes that families and communities are stronger when people have houses or flats of their own to call home. This Council will do everything possible to make sure all our tenants are housed in decent homes and we do not believe that caravans are an acceptable substitute for a decent home. Therefore, this Council condemns the BNP's policy of wanting to round up 500 local families and move them into cheap second hand caravans."</p> <p>3 Thanking residents for voting for Mayesbrook Park</p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Hunt</p> <p>"The Council offers its thanks to every local person who voted for Mayesbrook Park in the Help A London Park competition. Thanks to their votes, Mayesbrook Park came in the top ten of London parks and was awarded a massive £400,000 grant.</p> <p>The Council congratulates local people on their success and looks forward to seeing the money spent on making Mayesbrook Park one of London's finest."</p> <p>4 Supporting vulnerable children</p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Alexander</p> <p>"It is one of the greatest tragedies in life to hear about children whose parents are unable to look after them. This Council believes these young and vulnerable children are given the best chance in life by being raised within a strong and caring foster family. Therefore, this Council condemns the BNP's policy of wanting to take these children from their safe</p>	

family homes and put them in Borstals."

5 Condemning a murder and calling on the portfolio Member to consider stepping down

To be moved by Councillor Barnbrook

"This Council condemns the murder at knifepoint of Mr David Trott on his property earlier this month and requests that if Councillor Rush is unable to keep control of the spiralling knife problem that affects both the youth and elderly, she should step down from her position relating to law and order and get somebody more fitting to do the job."

The deadline for proposed amendments to these motions is noon on Friday, 27 March 2009. For information, attached at Appendix A is the relevant extract from the Council's Constitution relating to the procedure for dealing with Motions.

Recommendation

The Assembly is asked to debate and vote on the above motions and any amendments.

Contact Officer:
Ryan Ocampo

Title:
Democratic Services Team
Manager, Partnerships and
Statutory

Contact Details:
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Text phone: 020 8227 2685
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**Extract from the Council Constitution
Part B, Article 2 - The Assembly**

15. Procedure for Motions on issues directly affecting the Borough

- 15.1 Motions must be received by the Chief Executive not later than 4.00 pm on the Wednesday two weeks before the meeting.
- 15.2 The Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair, or in their absence the Deputy Chair, of the Assembly may decide not to place on the agenda any motions that he/she considers are of a vexatious or derogatory nature, or contrary to any provision of any code, protocol, legal requirement or rule of the Council; or that do not relate to the business of the Council or are otherwise considered improper or inappropriate.
- 15.3 The Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair, or in their absence the Deputy Chair, of the Assembly may decide not to place on the agenda any motions the content of which he/she feels forms the basis of a motion already considered at the Assembly within the previous twelve months.
- 15.4 In the event that the Member who submitted the motion is not present at the Assembly meeting, the motion will be withdrawn.
- 15.5 Any motions withdrawn as indicated above, or withdrawn at the request of the Member who submitted the motion, either before or during the meeting, may not be resubmitted to the Assembly within a period of six months. This condition will be waived where the Member, or a colleague on their behalf, has notified the Chief Executive by 5 pm on the day of the meeting of their inability to attend due to ill health or family bereavement.
- 15.6 Motions will be listed on the agenda in the order in which they are received.
- 15.7 Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which directly affect the borough.
- 15.8 Amendments to motions should be presented in writing to the Chief Executive not later than 12 noon on the Friday before the meeting. Amendments proposed after this time may only be considered with the consent of the Chair.
- 15.9 Votes will be taken by way of a roll call and recorded in the minutes. This includes votes on any amendments to motions.
- 15.10 Order/rules of debate:
 - 1. Except with the Chair's consent, the debate on each motion shall last no longer than 10 minutes and no individual speech shall exceed two minutes.
 - 2. The mover will move the motion and explain its purpose.
 - 3. The seconder will then second the motion

4. The Chair will then invite other Members to speak on the motion and put forward any amendments.
5. Once all Members who wish to speak have done so, or the time limit has elapsed, the Chair will allow the mover of the amendment a right of reply followed by the mover of the original motion.
6. At the end of the debate, any amendments will be voted on in the order in which they were proposed.
7. If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended becomes the substantive motion to which any further amendments are moved and voted upon.
8. After an amendment has been carried, the Chair will read out the amended motion before accepting any further amendments, or if there are none, put it to the vote.
9. If all amendments are lost, a vote will be taken on the original motion.

16. Closure Motions

- 16.1 A member may move, without comment, the following motions at the end of a speech of another Member:
 - (i) to proceed to the next business;
 - (ii) that the question/motion be now put;
 - (iii) to adjourn a debate; or
 - (iv) to adjourn a meeting.
- 16.2 If a motion to proceed to next business is seconded the Chair will put this to a vote without further discussion on the original motion or item
- 16.3 If a motion that the question/motion be now put is seconded the Chair will call the vote on the original motion or question.
- 16.4 If a motion to adjourn the debate or to adjourn the meeting is seconded and the Chair thinks the item has not been sufficiently discussed and cannot reasonably be so discussed on that occasion, they will put the procedural motion to the vote without giving the mover of the original motion the right of reply.