

## Minutes

### RESIDENTS' AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

8 June 2010



Meeting held at Committee Room 3 - Civic Centre,  
High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW

	<p><b>Committee Members Present:</b> Councillors Mike Markham (Chairman), Shirley Harper-O'Neill (Vice-Chairman), Janet Duncan (Labour Lead), Judy Kelly, June Nelson and Susan O'Brien.</p> <p><b>LBH Officers Present:</b> Natasha Dogra, Democratic Services</p>	
1.	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>None.</p>	<b>Action by</b>
2.	<p><b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN MATTERS COMING BEFORE THIS MEETING</b> (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>None.</p>	<b>Action by</b>
3.	<p><b>TO CONFIRM THAT ALL ITEMS MARKED PART 1 WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PUBLIC AND THAT ANY ITEMS MARKED PART 2 WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE</b> (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p>It was confirmed that all items would be considered as Part 1 and in public.</p>	<b>Action by</b>
4.	<p><b>TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 MARCH 2010</b> (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>The minutes were agreed by the Committee.</p>	<b>Action by</b>
5.	<p><b>TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL POC REVIEW TOPICS FOR 2010/11</b> (<i>Agenda Item 5</i>)</p> <p>The Committee discussed potential review to undertake during 2010/11. Members said it would be timely to discuss the problems of the drug Khat, with the recent closure of "Khat Houses" in areas in the South of the borough. Khat was becoming a major problem with some communities and Members were aware of some women's associations located within the borough who were facing difficulties at home due to problems related to Khat usage. Officers informed the Committee that Khat problems had recently been highlighted in the media and a review into the drug could lead to some very useful recommendations to help deal with the problem of the drug. Members narrowed down the scope of the review to the following main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Production – where the drug was grown, who grew it and how much</li></ul>	<b>Action by</b>

it cost to produce it.

- Importation – controls at Heathrow Airport
- Distribution – where was the drug sold and how much was it
- Usage – profile of the average user, social effects, health side effects and effects in relation to crime
- Future – would it be possible to grow the drug in the UK and could this lead to expansion of use not only within communities renowned for consuming this drug now but more wide-spread usage.
- How could the London Borough of Hillingdon help tackle the problem of Khat in the future?

Members discussed further topics for review. The Committee said a review of car parking might lead to some useful recommendation. Members said the review would need to be focused on a specific area of car parking, such as commuter parking. Officers were asked to provide a scoping report to the Committee at the subsequent meeting.

Members discussed other areas of interest to the Residents' and Environmental Service Policy Overview Committee. Emerging themes were the provision of toilets available to the public and the availability of Community Centre meeting rooms available to use by small community organisations. In regards to the provision of public facilities, the Committee discussed the availability of toilets in town centres and high streets. Members considered the following areas:

- What facilities are available to the public at the moment
- Are Hillingdon residents able to use toilets in cafes, bars and clubs for free?
- Are current provisions used by the public?

Members agreed that an update report on the current provision may suffice.

Members said that there were a large number of small public groups who met on a regular basis but had difficulties finding places to meet. Members considered the following themes:

- How many rooms were available for the public to use in community centres within the borough?
- Were these rooms fitted with toilets, kitchens and further amenities which may be needed?
- Could the planning policy be reviewed to include a term in each contract when building blocks of flats or community flats that a room must be built within the building for community use?
- Are some community centre meeting rooms only open to people of certain faith groups? If so, what can the Committee do to discourage this?

Members agreed that an update report on community centres may suffice.

**AGREED:**

**The Committee agreed to consider two scoping reports at their meeting on 27 July 2010 and to decide on review topics at their subsequent meeting. Members decided to receive scoping reports**

Natasha  
Dogra, DSO

	on Khat and car parking at the next meeting. Update reports on community centres and the provision of public toilets may be considered by Committee later in the year depending on the workload of the Committee.	
6.	<b>FORWARD PLAN 2010</b> ( <i>Agenda Item 6</i> )  The Committee noted and Forward Plan.	<b>Action by</b>
7.	<b>WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11</b> ( <i>Agenda Item 7</i> )  The Committee noted the Work Programme with an addition to the 27 July 2010 meeting as follows: Cllr Shirley Harper-O'Neill would provide a verbal update to the Committee on updated police tactics when dealing with terrorism and drug use.	<b>Action by</b>
The meeting, which commenced at 6.00 pm, closed at 7.00 pm.		

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Natasha Dogra on 01895 277 488. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.