

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 12 February 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Friday, 12 February 2016 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Dhruv Patel (Chairman)	Alderman Sir Paul Judge
Gareth Moore (Deputy Chairman)	Professor John Lumley
Randall Anderson	Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Deputy John Barker	Barbara Newman
Emma Edhem	Deputy Joyce Nash
John Fletcher	Virginia Rounding
Deputy Bill Fraser	James de Sausmarez
Alderman David Graves	James Tumbridge
Deputy the Revd Stephen Haines	Michael Welbank
Ann Holmes	Laura Jørgensen

In Attendance:

Tim Wilson

Officers:

Natasha Dogra	- Town Clerk's Department
Ade Adetosoye	- Director, Community and Children's Services
Neal Hounsell	- Department of Community and Children's Services
Gerald Mehrtens	- Department of Community and Children's Services
Chris Pelham	- Department of Community and Children's Services
Jacquie Campbell	- Department of Community and Children's Services
Paul Murtagh	- Department of Community and Children's Services
Davina Lilley	- Department of Community and Children's Services
Simon Cribbens	- Department of Community and Children's Services
Sarah Greenwood	- Department of Community and Children's Services
Leila Ben-Hassel	- Department of the Built Environment
Simon Glynn	- Department of the Built Environment

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Dr William Campbell Taylor, Deputy Billy Dove, Dr Martin Dudley, Marianne Fredericks, Deputy Henry Jones, Alderman Sir Paul Judge, Emma Price, Chris Punter, Adam Richardson, Delis Regis, Elizabeth Rogula, Patrick Streeter, Mark Wheatley and Philip Woodhouse.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Mr Gareth Moore declared an interest in all housing matters as he was a tenant on the Golden Lane Estate.

3. **MINUTES**

A Member requested that his query regarding the list of accuracy of the Committee Members included in the Terms of Reference be added to the minutes of the previous meeting.

A Member also queried the minute regarding the Mais House Residents Consultation and agreed to discuss this with the Town Clerk following the meeting.

Resolved – that the minutes were agreed as an accurate record subject to the above amendments.

Matters Arising:

London Small Business Centre Proposal Approval

Members were informed that the London Small Business Centre had been unable to raise the monies required for refurbishment and the shop unit at Gravel Lane was therefore being advertised as a commercial property by the City Surveyor. However, if in the future the centre was able to raise the funds required the City would reconsider their proposal.

Sheltered Housing Review Phase 2

Officers informed Members that following the previous Committee meeting some residents of Mais House had formed an Action Group and wished the Members to know that they planned to challenge the Committee's decision. A letter and a circular submitted to Officers was circulated to Committee Members. Members noted the communications and advised that Officers should continue with the decanting programme to find alternative homes for the residents of Mais House. Members further noted that it was in the best interests of residents to proceed with this work now, rather than waiting for plans for the site to be progressed.

4. **PRESENTATION: SPICE UPDATE**

Members received a presentation regarding the City of London Time Credits Programme and noted the following:

- 51 local groups and services using Time Credits.
- 763 members across Square Mile & City of London Housing – 44% new to volunteering.
- Almost 15,000 Time Credits had been earned.
- A local spend network of 20 partners available at 30 venues plus community opportunities.

In response to a query regarding the use of Time Credits in the City's Open Spaces, Officers informed Members that the Friends of the City Gardens volunteers were already taking advantage of the Time Credits programme. Members agreed that the scheme should involve volunteers further afield in Burnham Beeches and Epping Forest; Officers agreed to action this point with colleagues in the Open Spaces directorate.

The Committee thanked Officers for the presentation. Members were informed that the Spice scheme was due to celebrate its 4th anniversary and Members were invited to attend the celebrations on 23rd February 2016.

RESOLVED – that the update be received.

5. **ALDGATE ARTS EVENTS AND PLAY STRATEGY**

The Committee received regarding the Aldgate Arts Event and Play Strategy and noted that the programme was an emerging work stream of the Aldgate Gyratory highways and public realm enhancement project and had an approved budget of 96K.

The programme had been conceived to reduce anti-social behaviour and improve perceptions of safety through the creation of vibrant and active spaces. It would enhance the City's cultural offer and provide opportunities to improve health and well-being for residents and workers. It also aimed to attract visitors and grow the local economy. In so doing the programme supported several of the Corporation's policies and aims.

Members were informed that to deliver the quality of programme that can meet the Corporation's aims, additional external funding would be required. A funding model was being developed to determine the best approach however this was likely to include income generated by offering the Aldgate open spaces to appropriate mainstream event organisers.

RESOLVED – That the update be received.

6. **UPDATE ON ROUGH SLEEPERS**

The Committee received a report regarding the number of rough sleepers in the City of London. Members noted that the count for January 2016 was 35; the number counted in January 2015 was 31.

Members noted that the City outreach team continued to implement monthly counts. Members noted that the counts were just a snapshot of the number of rough sleepers on the City's streets. They provided an opportunity to gather intelligence about who was actually sleeping out on any given night. The indicators, as with all inner London boroughs, suggested that rough sleeping was on the rise, although the national count in November was slightly lower than the previous year. There was no count in December as the outreach team were running a pop-up hub and focused on referring clients to Crisis at Christmas.

Officers informed Members that the City's relationship with ICE was fluctuating and Members agreed that the relationship would benefit from a letter signed by the Chairman of the Committee to the relevant Minister. Officers in the Community and Children's Services Department agreed to action this prior to the next Committee meeting.

RESOLVED – that the update be received.

7. HOUSING STOCK VALUATION DATA

The Committee received information provided by the City of London Corporation to the Government setting out the value, size and turnover within the City of London Corporation's local authority housing stock. It will inform the Government's calculation of an annual payment to be made to the Government based on the total value of high-value local authority housing likely to fall vacant during the year.

Members noted that the City Surveyor's Department had provided the vacant property market value of the City of London Corporation general needs stock at 31 March 2015. The total value of these homes was estimated to be £672,365,500. Values of individual homes range from £150,000 for the smallest studio flats through to £1,490,000 for the largest homes at Horace Jones House. The average value was £392,500.

RESOLVED – that the update be received.

8. ALDGATE PROJECT - PAVILION

The Committee noted that as part of the Aldgate Project aimed at enhancing the Aldgate gyratory a new public space would be created on the highway to form a new square, and a Pavilion would be provided on the new square utilising redundant pedestrian highway structures under the space. This was in accordance with the proposals approved by the Court of Common Council in 2014 as part of the Aldgate Highway Changes and Public Realm Improvement Project.

RESOLVED – That Members:

Noted that the Stopping-Up Order in relation to the highway upon which the Aldgate Pavilion is to be constructed is being progressed under the Town Clerk's delegated authority.

Approved the appropriation of the proposed Aldgate Pavilion from the Planning and Transportation Committee to the control of the Community and Children's Services Committee upon completion of its construction subject to both stopping-up being obtained and the Terms of Reference of the Committee being amended.

Community and Children's Services Committee amend their Terms of Reference by addition of the provision: "to be responsible for the management of the Aldgate Pavilion".

Approved the granting of delegated authority to the Director of Community and Children's Services in consultation with the City Surveyor and the Comptroller and City Solicitor where necessary to undertake the letting and management of the Aldgate Pavilion as a social enterprise following its construction.

9. COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENTAL RISK REGISTER 2015/2016 UPDATE

The Committee noted an update on the management of risks faced by the Department of Community and Children's Services.

Members noted that risk was reviewed regularly by the Departmental Leadership Team as part of the ongoing management of the operations of the department. In addition to the opportunity for emerging risks to be raised as they were identified, a process exists for in-depth periodic review of the risk register. The Community and Children's Services department had nine risks on the register.

The most significant current risks were:

- CR17** – Safeguarding Risk (Current Corporate risk: Amber – no change)
- PE 002** – Failure to deliver expansion of Sir John Cass Foundation Primary School (Current Departmental risk: Red - no change)
- CP 002** – City of London Community Education Centre – site redevelopment (New Departmental risk – Red)
- HS 002** – Failure to carry out effective fire risk assessments (New Departmental risk – Red)
- HS003** – Lone Working (New Departmental risk – Red)
- PE 003** – Early Help (New Service risk - Red)

RESOLVED – that the update be received.

10. **CITY OF LONDON KEY STAGE 1 AND KEY STAGE 2 RESULTS**

The Committee received an update on the performance of primary pupils at Sir John Cass School in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, when compared with national pupil performance. Members noted that Early Years Foundation Stage early education had never been stronger, with Sir John Cass children performing well above the national benchmark in 2014/15. In the phonics screening check outcomes for Year 1 children improved in 2014/15 and this compares favourably with Inner London and England.

Members noted that mathematics performance was stable. Key Stage 2 outcomes in reading, writing and mathematics combined were at 97% for Level 4 and above – an improvement compared with 2013/14, owing to better performance in mathematics. Key Stage 2 outcomes at Level 5 and above improved in all three subjects and compares favourably to Inner London and national.

Members agreed that the results were very pleasing and congratulated Officers and the Head Master of Sir John Cass Primary School. The Committee agreed that in future it would be beneficial for the report to reflect the wider picture so Members were made aware of which schools the children attended after they left the City's primary schools.

RESOLVED – That the update be received.

11. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no urgent business.

13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**
RESOLVED - That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.
14. **URGENT WAIVER APPROVAL BY THE CHAMBERLAIN**
The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain.
15. **BIANNUAL UPDATE ON DEPARTMENTAL COMMISSIONING AND CONTRACTS**
The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
16. **GOLDEN LANE PLAYGROUND REPORT**
The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
17. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.
18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 12.45 pm

Chairman

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