

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 13 January 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Friday, 13 January 2017 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Dhruv Patel (Chairman)	Professor John Lumley
Gareth Moore (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Randall Anderson	Barbara Newman
Deputy John Barker	Deputy Joyce Nash
Revd Dr William Campbell-Taylor	Deputy Elizabeth Rogula
Emma Edhem	Virginia Rounding
John Fletcher	Deputy Robert Merrett
Deputy Bill Fraser	James de Sausmarez
Marianne Fredericks	Laura Jørgensen
Alderman David Graves	
Ann Holmes	

Officers:

Natasha Dogra	-	Town Clerk's Department
Neal Hounsell	-	Director, Community and Children's Services
Gerald Mehrtens	-	Community and Children's Services
Chris Pelham	-	Community and Children's Services
Jacquie Campbell	-	Community and Children's Services
Pip Hesketh	-	Community and Children's Services
Simon Cribbens	-	Community and Children's Services
Mark Jarvis	-	Chamberlain's Department
Louise Said	-	Chamberlain's Department
Philip Saunders	-	Remembrancer's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Alderman Robert Howard, Emma Price, Deputy Stephen Haines, Keith Bottomley, Mark Wheatley, Philip Woodhouse, Deputy Henry Jones, Alex Bain Stewart and Delis Regis.

The Chairman welcomed Matt Piper, Vice Chair of Governors at Sir John Cass Foundation, as a Parent Governor of the Committee.

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

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

3. MINUTES

Resolved – that the minutes be agreed an accurate record.

Matters arising:

The Director informed Members that following the proposals around the integration of health and social care. Delegated authority was sought to allow the Director to review and sign up to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the shadow governance arrangements of the North East London Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

The Memorandum of Understanding is not legally binding, but is intended to ensure a common understanding and commitment between the partner organisations on the NEL STP governance arrangements, specifically:

- The scope and objectives of the NEL STP governance arrangements
- The principles and processes that will underpin the NEL STP governance arrangements
- The governance framework / structure that will support the development and implementation of the NEL STP

Resolved – that Members approved the delegated authority request.

4. **RESOLUTION OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Members considered and approved a report of the Town Clerk and Comptroller and City Solicitor regarding the appointment of Sub-Committee Chairmen.

Discussions ensued regarding the proposal of the Policy & Resources Committee. Some Members felt the service Committee should retain the right for the decision regarding Chairmen of Sub Committees to be the decision of the Sub Committee. Some Members felt the proposal would see City Corporation Committees move towards a Cabinet style of governance.

The Chairman moved to vote on the resolution with 7 Members voting for and 8 Members voting against the resolution, with 1 Member abstaining.

RESOLVED – that the resolution of the Policy and Resources Committee be refused.

5. **PRESENTATION: YOUTH SERVICE WORK**

The Committee were informed that the Presenter was unfortunately unwell and the presentation would instead be circulated to Members via email.

6. **REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS - 2017/18**

Members noted the annual submission of the revenue and capital budgets overseen by the Committee. The local risk budgets have been prepared within the resources allocated to the Director. The provisional nature of the revenue budgets particularly recognises that further revisions may arise from the necessary realignment of funds resulting from corporate projects.

Overall, the 2017/18 provisional revenue budget totals £11,968m a decrease of £94,000 compared with the Latest Approved Budget for 2016/17. Main reasons for this reduction are:-

- Latest Approved Budget for 2016/17 includes expenditure of £161,000 funded from the previous year's underspend which is not included in 2017/18

- Decrease of £180,000 due to the savings arising from the Service Based Review. Note these savings were agreed by this Committee in November 2014.
- Increase of £97,000 due to 1% inflation for pay and price increases
- Increase of £99,000 in support services and capital charges.

The Chamberlain noted that following the committee report on adult social care pressures at the November meeting, further consideration would be given to This area in a future report

Resolved – that Members

- reviewed the provisional 2017/18 revenue budget to ensure that it reflects the Committee’s objectives and, if so, approve the budget for submission to the Finance Committee;
- reviewed and approve the draft capital budget;
- authorised the Chamberlain to revise these budgets to allow for further implications arising from departmental reorganisations and other reviews, corporate projects, changes to the Additional Works Programme.

7. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2017/18

The Committee received the Housing Revenue Account and Capital Budgets for 2017/18.

Resolved – that Members:

- reviewed the provisional 2017/18 revenue budget to ensure that it reflects the Committee’s objectives and, if so, approve the proposed budget for submission to the Finance Committee
- reviewed and approve the draft capital budget;
- authorised the Chamberlain to revise these budgets to allow for further implications arising from departmental reorganisations and other reviews.

8. CHILDREN AND SOCIAL WORK BILL

Members noted a summary of the main features of the Children and Social Work Bill. The Bill focused on three areas:

- Looked-after Children and Care Leavers
- Adoption
- Regulation of Social Workers.

Resolved – that the report be received.

9. RELIEF IN NEED TRUSTS OF CERTAIN SUMS HELD BY COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Members noted that the City of London Corporation holds a small sum (£2196.87) on behalf of a number of beneficiaries who cannot be traced. The sums are a mix of charity and social care funds, and the City Corporation holds the monies in its local authority capacity respectively as “de facto” charity trustee of the charity funds, and as “de facto” trustee of the social care funds.

The Charity Commission has confirmed that distribution of these funds may take place following simple resolution that they are held in trust by the City

Corporation as Relief in Need funds. Your officers recommend that the funds be so declared and applied by way of the purchase of food vouchers and distributed to those in need by the Department of Community and Children's Services. Recommendation(s) Members of the Community and Children's Services Committee (exercising the City's functions as trustee of these charity and social care funds in the sum of £2196.87) are asked to endorse officers.

Resolved – that Members declare that the funds concerned are Relief in Need funds (both capital and income being fully expendable); and agreed that these funds may be properly applied by the purchase of food vouchers and distributed to needy persons at the Director of Community and Children's Services" discretion operating within his existing delegated authority;

10. **EARLY YEARS PERFORMANCE**

Members noted that during 2016, the Education and Early Years Service has focused on understanding the quality of Early Years provision across the City of London with regards to its statutory responsibilities.

Members noted that there is sufficient early years capacity for families wanting places. It points to key areas of high performance which includes judgements of good or outstanding for all settings and areas of development, which includes work required on literacy, communication and language. The priorities for 2017 are:

- The appointment of a permanent Early Years Advisory Teacher and Area SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) to support the settings;
- The strengthening of literacy skills and the introduction of a literacy scheme for all resident children under 5;
- The continuation of 'Little Movers in the Big City', a movement scheme designed to develop cognitive development;
- Building practitioner participation in training and professional development and preparing for Inspections
- Managing the introduction of additional free hours of childcare.

Resolved – that the report be received.

11. **ANNUAL REPORT ON LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT**

Then Committee received an overview of learning and achievement of primary aged pupils in the City of London during the 2015/16 education year. The cohort reported on includes all the children at Sir John Cass, with the City resident pupils reported as a distinct group within this, the City residents at Prior Weston Primary School and City residents attending other Islington Primary schools.

Comparisons between 2015/16 performance and previous years is problematic this year as the Department for Education introduced a new and complex regime of performance measurement during 2016 which does not mirror measures from previous years. This report spans the new and old methods of measurement so commentary is provided to guide Members when the raw data invites misleading conclusions. It is also important to remember that the number of children being measured at each school is very small so 'slight dips'

in performance can be caused by a single child performing poorly on a single day. Lastly, members will be aware that the changes in tests for primary phase pupils attracted considerable media attention and criticism for being far too hard and causing unnecessary pressure and stress for the children.

In response to a query it was noted that the performance of children at Sir John Cass remains very positive. Results show significant improvement in some areas such as in phonics screening compared to the previous year and a marked improvement (a rise from 50% to 90%) over the last two years. The number of children achieving a good stage of development at Early Years Foundation Stage is lower than in previous years but this is because of the makeup of the group which has a high number of children with additional needs. Outcomes at Key stage 1 followed the national trend of being lower this year but in Key Stage 2 in the combined reading, writing and mathematics, 89% of Sir John Cass's pupils met the expected standard, compared to just over half of pupils nationally (53%). Mathematics rose to 100%, writing was stable and reading dipped only slightly.

At Prior Weston school, City of London pupil's performance was also extremely positive for 2015/16. The Early Years Foundation Stage had a higher statistical score than Sir John Cass but the phonics screening showed a slightly lower score than Sir John Cass and a slight dip from previous years. At Key Stage 1, there was a slight dip in reading results but an improvement in Maths and Writing. Key stage 2 results are more volatile, and showing a drop in performance in reading writing and maths.

Members were informed that the national format for reporting school performance has changed during the year. This makes comparing performance to previous years rather contrived and potentially misleading. A new format for reporting is being considered for the 2016-17 annual report which gathers data in a more meaningful local context and which references a broader range of City of London children, including secondary age children.

Resolved – that the update be received.

12. FAMILIES FIRST QUALITY AWARD

The Committee was informed that the City of London's Family and Young People's Information Service (FYi), part of the Education and Early Years Service, successfully completed accreditation for the Family and Childcare Trust's Families First Quality Award in November 2016.

Resolved – that the report be received.

13. APPRENTICESHIPS - EXPANSION OF THE APPRENTICESHIP PROVIDER SERVICE

Members noted that the City of London Corporation (City Corporation) is committed to delivering 100 apprenticeships across its departments in 2017/18. The delivery of this commitment, and the outstanding level of service the City Corporation seeks, will require additional staffing and resources. Officers sought Member approval of the proposed staffing structure, which includes the

creation of an additional post over and above the existing apprenticeships team and funding to support it.

Discussions ensued regarding the recruitment of six members of staff to assist with the implementation of the Apprenticeship Scheme. The City Corporation is already both an employer of apprentices and an approved apprenticeship provider - training and supporting apprentices employed by the City Corporation and a range of other City businesses. The number of internal apprentices employed within the City Corporation has remained broadly static over the last few years at around 25 to 30. To grow from this position and to offer a sustainable 100 apprenticeships year on year, will require additional staffing resources in the provider service and related roles. This report seeks approval for the creation of the required additional roles and the corresponding increases to baseline budgets.

Some Members of the Committee raised concerns regarding the resources dedicated to the scheme, namely the cost effectiveness of recruiting six members of staff to deliver the scheme. Officers informed Members that these Officers would be required to deliver a successful outreach programme to ensure members of the community were made aware of the scheme. The Officers would assist with ensuring the scheme helped to deliver the City Corporation's wider social objectives by reaching out to those who required extra support and assistance. However, Members asked that Officers should reconsider the proposed structure following the report being considered by the Establishment Committee and Resource Allocation Sub Committee.

Resolved – that Members approved the Apprenticeship scheme Service Provider and asked Officers to review the proposed structure of the apprenticeship and additional supporting roles.

14. **ALDGATE PROJECTS UPDATE**

The Committee noted that the creation of Aldgate Square will have a significant impact on the communities that live, work and visit the area. This report updates Members on the progress of a number of projects associated with Aldgate Square that fall under the remit of Community & Children's services.

Portsoken Pavilion

There have been a number of delays with the final design of the pavilion. However, following negotiations, both with Members (regarding a budget increase for the pavilion) and the Kier Group (regarding pavilion value engineering), the contract to construct the pavilion has been signed. Last month the pavilion roof structure was completed and is now weathering in the yard of specialists, Littlehampton Welding Ltd. This month work has started on site. Officers are working with Kier to programme the delivery of both the Portsoken Pavilion and the consequent Aldgate Square landscaping.

Temporary location for Kahaila

In September 2015 Kahaila were approved by Community and Children's Services as Portsoken Pavilion and Café managers based on an expected start date in autumn 2016. In October 2016 Members agreed the offer of a

temporary rental contract for 6 Harrow Place to Kahaila, in order that they, as Page 89 Agenda Item 14 a charitable organisation, could begin to provide a café services in the Aldgate area. Since that decision was taken, a one year lease was agreed between the City and Kahaila on the 1st December 2016 and work has commenced to fit out and open 6 Harrow Place as a café provided by Kahaila..

Aldgate Community Events

The delays to the square have meant that the community play planned for June 2017 has been rescheduled. The Community Steering Group has used this as an opportunity to extend their programme of events. They will now be running a heritage trail and exhibitions funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in summer 2017. In the latter part of the year they are planning a programme of winter events, including a lantern parade, a Window Wanderland trail featuring decorated and lit up home and business windows, and a Christmas Fair. The community play itself will take place in spring 2018 and will focus on Victorian Aldgate.

Members asked Officers to ensure that for future events they engaged with the local community at an early stage to ensure that events arranged were meeting community needs.

Resolved – that the report be received.

15. ROUGH SLEEPERS UPDATE

Members noted that the counts of rough sleepers during the past three months were as follows: September – 25; October – 29; and November – 50. The counts continue to fluctuate but there is a noticeable trend across London that rough sleeping is increasing and it is particularly high in the City. Rough sleeping is driven by a range of factors, many beyond the control of the City. The count does not reflect how long people are on the streets, what their complex needs are or the services they may have received. The City continues to be engaged in four partnership-based projects – Home for Good,

No First Night Out, Gold Standard and the City Lodge that all address rough sleeping. Updates for these projects are as follows:

- The advice and homeless service are completing the challenges required to achieve the Silver award.
- Home for Good additional training will take place in February 2017.
- Work on the City Lodge is in progress.
- The No First Night Out project continues to attract interest on a regional and national level. An independent review of the outreach contract was presented to the Members of the Rough Sleepers Group in November 2016. Members agreed to review the current specification with St Mungo's so that it was more outcome focused.

Members were informed that often reporting cases via email or the Street Link was more effective than calling the service.

Resolved – that the update be received.

16. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There was one question from Mr Fletcher:

“Following a planning application by Guinness Trust to demolish and redevelop their social housing estate on Mansell St there is speculation amongst some residents on the Middlesex St Estate that The City plans to do the same with Middlesex St. Can you confirm that no such plans exist and there is no intention to demolish and redevelop the estate. Can you further confirm that in fact there are detailed plans to invest in and improve the current estate including lifts, decoration of common parts and the shop units?”

Officers confirmed that the City of London had no intention to demolish and redevelop the Middlesex Street Estate.

Members were informed that Officers were working on a business plan for the commercial properties in Middlesex Street which would set out plans for the future maintenance and improvement of the retail units. It was intended that the business plan would be sent to the Grand Committee meeting on 17th February 2017.

Officers had made provisions in the Major Works Programme for significant improvements to bring homes on Middlesex Street up to the ‘City Standard’. These improvement works, which have been communicated to all residents on the Estate included:

- The replacement of the communal heating system
- Electrical rewiring
- Concrete testing and remedial concrete repair works
- Refurbishing the passenger lifts
- Redecoration of external and internal common areas
- Replacement of balcony doors and windows to Petticoat Towers
- Replacement of stairway panels to Petticoat Towers
- Other general works included water tank replacement, gullies and drainage and ventilation works.
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Several of these programmes of work were due to commence later this year with others staggered over a further 3 to 4 year period.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The Director informed Members that following a decision by the Establishment and Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee the Director of Community & Children’s Services would assume line-management responsibility for the Head of Barbican & Community Libraries.

Members also noted that the City’s housing service had been shortlisted for a number of awards in the Tenants Participation Advisory Service and Local

Government Chronicle award events. The Committee would be kept informed regarding any progress made.

18. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

MOTION - That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act

19. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

Resolved – that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

20. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

21. 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

**Contact Officer: Natasha Dogra tel. no.: 020 7332 1434
Natasha.Dogra@cityoflondon.gov.uk**