

## **COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, 11 May 2017**

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 11 May 2017 at 11.30 am

### **Present**

#### **Members:**

Rehana Ameer	The Lord Mountevans
Randall Anderson	Deputy Joyce Nash
Tom Anderson	Barbara Newman
Matthew Bell	Dhruv Patel
James de Sausmarez	Susan Pearson
Mary Durcan	William Pimlott
John Fletcher	Henrika Priest
Marianne Fredericks	Jason Pritchard
Prem Goyal	Ruby Sayed
Deputy the Revd Stephen Haines	Deputy John Tomlinson
Caroline Haines	Mark Wheatley
Deputy Catherine McGuinness	Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Deputy Henry Jones	George Abrahams
Angus Knowles-Cutler	

#### **Officers:**

Natasha Dogra – Town Clerk's Department  
Andrew Carter – Director, Community & Children's Services  
Neal; Hounsell – Community & Children's Services Department  
Chris Pelham – Community & Children's Services Department  
Gerald Mehrstens – Community & Children's Services Department  
Simon Cribbens – Community & Children's Services Department  
Sarah Greenwood – Community & Children's Services Department  
Lorraine Burke – Community & Children's Services Department  
Paul Murtagh – Community & Children's Services Department  
Adam Johnstone – Community & Children's Services Department  
Kate Smith – Town Clerk's Department  
Neil Davies – Town Clerk's Department  
Mark Jarvis – Chamberlain's Department  
Mark Lowman – City Surveyor's Department  
Paul Chadha – Comptroller's and City Solicitor's Department  
Carl Locsin – Town Clerk's Department

1. **APOLOGIES**  
Apologies had been received from Alderman Graves, Alderman Howard, Elizabeth Rogula, Peter Bennett, Pooja Tank, Laura Jorgensen and Matt Piper.
2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Susan Pearson declared an interest in relation to items relating to the Golden Lane Estate, and also declared that she was a Governor at the Richard Cloudesley School in Islington

3. **MINUTES**

Resolved – that the minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

4. **ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL**

Resolved – that the Order of the Court of Common Council be received.

5. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Committee were invited to appoint a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 29. Dhruv Patel was the only Member to seek election to be Chairman and was therefore appointed for the year ensuing.

**RESOLVED** – it was unanimously agreed that Dhruv Patel be appointed Chairman for the ensuing.

6. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Committee were invited to appoint a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 30. Randall Anderson and Marianne Fredericks both stood for election to the role and following a ballot Randall Anderson was appointed for the ensuing year, with the result as follows:

Randall Anderson – 16 votes

Marianne Fredericks – 11 votes

**RESOLVED** – it was unanimously agreed that Randall Anderson be appointed Deputy Chairman for the ensuing.

7. **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

The Committee were invited to appoint the sub-committees for the ensuing year. The Committee agreed that the Rough Sleepers Working Party and Middlesex Street Estates Shops Group be reinstated this year.

Discussions ensued regarding the appointment of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee. The Committee agreed to amend the terms of reference so the appointments could be made non-ex-officio, and agreed that the reference should be relaxed for the ensuing year.

**RESOLVED** – that the following appoints be made:

**Housing Management & Almshouses Sub Committee**

Randall Anderson

Dhruv Patel

Marianne Fredericks

Barbara Newman

Deputy Tomlinson

Mary Durcan

Susan Pearson  
John Fletcher  
Deputy Jones  
Elizabeth Rogula  
Alderman David Graves

**Safeguarding Sub-Committee**

Deputy Rogula  
Randall Anderson  
Dhruv Patel  
Marianne Fredericks  
Ruby Sayed  
Deputy Nash

**Education Board Representative**

Philip Woodhouse

**Integrated Commissioning Sub Committee**

Randall Anderson  
Dhruv Patel  
Deputy Nash

**Safeguarding Lead Member**

To be appointed by the Safeguarding Sub Committee

**Adult Safeguarding Lead Member**

To be appointed by the Safeguarding Sub Committee

**Young People Lead Member**

Philip Woodhouse

**Rough Sleepers Lead Members**

Marianne Fredericks  
Henrika Priest

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

The Committee received a revised resolution of the Policy & Resources Committee relating to the appointment of Chairmen to Sub Committees.

**RESOLVED** – that the resolution of the Policy & Resources Committee be received.

**9. DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN: DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Members received the business plan for the Department of Community Services (DCCS) for the year 2017-18. The new business plan for DCCS outlines refreshed departmental priorities and the key outcomes we are aiming to deliver for the period of the plan. Members were also presented with an early draft of the Corporate Plan 2018-23.

**RESOLVED** – that Members approved the high-level and detailed departmental business plans for the Department of Community and Children’s Services.

**10. QUARTER 4 BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE**

Members noted the progress made during Quarter 4 (Q4 – January to March 2017) against the refreshed 2015-17 Community and Children’s Services Business Plan. It shows what has been achieved and the progress made against the five departmental strategic aims:

- Safeguarding and early help
- Health and wellbeing
- Education and employability
- Homes and communities
- Efficiency and effectiveness.

Members thanked Officers for the update and agreed that good progress had been against the departmental strategic aims made thus far. The Committee agreed that it would be useful to receive a presentation from Fusion at a future Committee meeting.

**RESOLVED** – that the update be received.

**11. REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN**

Members received a report seeking additional funding to cover the increased costs of providing a service to unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC). The City of London has a duty to accommodate and support UASC who are in our area.

In response to queries from the Committee, Officers informed Members that the situation has become more challenging because we had an unexpected volume of UASC in 2015/16, and again at the start of 2017. Officers also said that as these children get older, their funding reduces and eventually stops. Our staffing costs have increased due to the increased volume, and this is factored in to the asylum seekers budget. Expenditure in this area has exceeded budget since 2015/16.

**RESOLVED** – that Members supported the submission of a report to the Policy and Resources Committee requesting additional central risk resources of £232,000 to the Department of Community and Children’s Services report for unaccompanied asylum seeking children support funding.

**12. STRONGER COMMUNITIES (CENTRAL GRANTS) PROGRAMME - AWARD OF GRANTS**

The Stronger Communities theme forms part of the Central Grants Programme (CGP). Members were informed of the award of £38,670 in support of four applications to this programme that will support community initiatives in the City and on our housing estates in line with the objectives of the funding criteria.

In response to queries from Members it was noted that the City Corporation also ran a small grants programme which may be more suitable for individuals and smaller groups to apply to. Officers accepted a point from Members regarding the

process and would feed back comments regarding the usability of the forms to the Grants Unit.

**RESOLVED** – that the update be received.

**13. BIENNIAL COMMISSIONING UPDATE**

Members noted that the Commissioning team in the Department of Community and Children's Services (DCCS) leads on the key functions of the commissioning cycle (analysis, plan, do, review) and procurement functions for most contracts within DCCS. The team produces an annual sourcing plan for new contracts, which is reviewed quarterly. The team holds a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the City Procurement team, which was recently reviewed. It concluded that the current arrangements should continue in 2017/18 with some small procedural changes such as adopting similar forms and sharing of information.

Internal Audit reviewed the commissioning and contract management arrangements of DCCS in March 2017 and gave positive feedback in several areas, including compliance with National Audit Office best practice principles of commissioning. It gave recommendations to strengthen the processes, some of which were already identified or within the remit of the Comptroller's team. All audit recommendations are within the Commissioning team's plan for 2017/18.

**RESOLVED** – that the update be received.

**14. SOCIAL WELLBEING STRATEGY**

Members received a proposed Social Wellbeing Strategy for the City of London Corporation. Tackling social isolation and loneliness has been identified as a priority in the DCCS Business Plan, in the City Corporation's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Mental Health Strategy and by the Adult Advisory Group.

In response to a query from Members, Officers said that the Strategy recommends that the City Corporation should take a number of actions to reduce loneliness and improve social wellbeing. These are based on community research carried out by Dr Roger Green of Goldsmiths, University of London and recommendations made by the Social Wellbeing Panel.

The Committee were informed that the City Corporation used Care Navigators to ensure that Estates Staff were aware when a resident was released from hospital and moving back to the estate. Members agreed that although this service was available it did not always operate successfully.

Officers informed Members that the Social Wellbeing Strategy was in draft format and the proposals quoted would be checked thoroughly before final sign off to ensure all facts were correct and accurate.

**RESOLVED** – that Members approved the proposed Social Wellbeing Strategy.

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

There were no questions.

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**  
There was no urgent business.
17. **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.
18. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**  
**RESOLVED** – that the non-public minutes be agreed as an accurate record.
19. **ELECTRONIC SOCIAL CARE RECORDING SYSTEM**  
The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
20. **DEVELOPING OUR FIVE-YEAR BUSINESS PLAN - OUTCOME OF AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW**  
The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
21. **ISSUE REPORT: HOSTEL DEVELOPMENT & LODGE LL (MIDDLE STREET) ENABLING PROJECT**  
The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
22. **GOLDEN LANE PLAYGROUND REFURBISHMENT**  
The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
23. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**  
There were no questions.

**The meeting ended at 1:00pm**

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Chairman

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