

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 11 May 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Friday, 11 May 2018 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Randall Anderson	Deputy Joyce Nash
Tom Anderson	Barbara Newman
Peter Bennett	Dhruv Patel
Mary Durcan	Susan Pearson
John Fletcher	William Pimlott
Marianne Fredericks	Henrika Priest
Alderman John Garbutt	James de Sausmarez
Alderman Prem Goyal	Ruby Sayed
Caroline Haines	
Deputy the Revd Stephen Haines	
Deputy Henry Jones	

Officers:

Andrew Carter	- Director, Community & Children's Services
Natasha Dogra	- Town Clerk's Department
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's Department
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's Department
Theresa Shortland	- Community and Children's Services Department
Simon Cribbens	- Community & Children's Services Department
Mark Lowman	- City Surveyor's Department
Gerald Mehrtens	- Community & Children's Services Department
Paul Murtagh	- Community & Children's Services Department
Chris Pelham	- Community and Children's Services Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Alderman Graves, Angus Knowles-Cutler, Munsur Ali, Philip Woodhouse, Deputy Catherine McGuinness, Mark Wheatley and Rehana Ameer.

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

Susan Pearson declared a pecuniary interest in items 12 and 17, and a non-pecuniary interest in items 9, 18 and 19 on the agenda. Ms Pearson did not vote or take part in the discussion on items 12 and 17.

3. THE ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

The order of the Court of Common Council was received by the Committee.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 29. A list of Members eligible to stand was read and Randall Anderson being the only Member expressing willingness to serve was duly elected Chairman for the ensuing year and took the Chair.

Resolved - Randall Anderson being the only Member willing to serve was elected to serve as Chairman for the ensuing year.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 30. The outgoing Chairman expressed his desire to exercise his right to serve as Deputy Chairman for one year, and the Committee supported this.

Resolved – the outgoing Chairman Dhruv Patel wished to exercise his right to serve as Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year and was duly elected.

Vote of Thanks

Deputy Nash was invited to deliver a vote of thanks to the outgoing chairman.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That at the conclusion of his three year term of office as their Chairman, the Members of the Community and Children's Committee wish to extend to Dhruv Patel their sincere thanks and appreciation for the extremely able and courteous manner in which he has presided over their deliberations and the detailed care and interest he has shown in all aspects of the work of this Committee.

He has overseen admirably the high-level workload of the Committee and that of its sub Committees and panels, holding many representative positions on behalf of the Committee.

Dhruv's commitment to improving outcomes for young people in care and particularly reflecting the City's demographic, unaccompanied minors. His extension of this commitment to actively supporting the London Children in Care Council and challenging officers to do more. Dhruv's commitment to ensuring that City Children are safe and receive the best possible services was notable in the Ofsted Inspection in 2016 where a judgement of Outstanding was given for Leadership and Governance.

Dhruv's tenure as Chairman has seen him undertaken considerable work to tackle social isolation. Through his leadership the Social Wellbeing Panel was established, which Dhruv went on to chair. The panel is delivering several projects to improve the wellbeing among a diverse range of community groups. Dhruv's support in securing additional resources to help those who sleep rough on our streets and to meet the growing pressures on the City's adult social care services has also proven invaluable. Equally Dhruv's passion for social mobility and driving the City's Apprenticeships Programme to maximise opportunities for young people from all backgrounds and abilities.

The Committee would like to acknowledge Dhruv's unrelenting support for the community development work, particularly in the east of the City. He has been enthusiastic and extremely positive about all activities and events, giving his time to attend whenever he could. Dhruv's encouragement has been a big boost, not only to officers, but to the community volunteers concerned. Dhruv's commitment to addressing fire safety issues that have arisen in housing since the Grenfell Tower fire, and his understanding and support for the officers dealing with these has also been widely appreciated.

FINALLY, the Committee wishes to place on record its recognition of Dhruv's distinguished contribution to the Committee and, in thanking him for his generous hospitality during his years of office, his colleagues convey to him their good wishes for the future, with many happy memories of a job well done.

6. **MINUTES**

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

7. **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

The Committee were invited to consider the report of the Town Clerk relating to the appointments of sub committees.

Resolved – that the following appointments be made:

Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee

Randall Anderson
Alderman David Graves
John Fletcher
Mary Durcan
Dhruv Patel
Marianne Fredericks
Susan Pearson
William Pimlott
Barbara Newman
Peter Bennett

Safeguarding Sub Committee

Randall Anderson
Dhruv Patel
Ruby Sayed
Deputy Joyce Nash
Marianne Fredericks
Mary Durcan
Susan Pearson
1 Vacancy

Education Board Representative

Randall Anderson

Integrated Commissioning Sub Committee

Randall Anderson

Dhruv Patel
Marianne Fredericks
Ruby Sayed (substitute)
Barbara Newman (substitute)

Children's Safeguarding Lead Member

Ruby Sayed

Adult's Safeguarding Lead Members

Randall Anderson
1 vacancy

Young People's Lead Member

William Pimlott

Rough Sleepers Lead Members

Marianne Fredericks
Henrika Priest

Members agreed to ask the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Director of Community & Children's Services, to investigate the establishment of a Rough Sleepers Sub Committee. A draft Terms of Reference would be submitted to the Grand Committee for their consideration in due course.

8. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) UPDATE REPORT

Members received an update which had been considered by the Safeguarding Sub Committee on the first year of the three-year SEND Strategy 2017–20 and the work with children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) in the City of London. The report also provided an update on the outcomes of the Area SEND Inspection of the City of London 12–16 March 2018.

In response to a query Members were informed that there were currently 14 children with education and healthcare plans and 26 young people receiving SEN support.

Members noted that the first year of the SEND Strategy 2017–20 has delivered positive outcomes for children and young people with SEND in the City of London. The Area SEND Inspection provided an independent, external evaluation of how well the City of London local area carries out its statutory duties in relation to children and young people with SEND to support their development.

Resolved – that the report be received.

9. FIRE SAFETY REVIEW - HRA PROPERTIES

Members were informed of the work that has been done on potential improvement works to enhance the safety of the City of London Corporation's (CoLC's) social housing portfolio, and its residents in the event of

fire. The report also sought the views of, and guidance from Members on the strategic direction the CoLC should take in its approach to fire safety.

Questions were raised about the use of sprinkler systems and the installation of fire alarms in high-rise blocks of flats. The CoLC's high-rise flats do not currently have such systems. As part of the review of current processes and procedures relating to fire safety in its homes, research has been done into these, and other areas of improvements.

Discussions ensued regarding the installation of sprinklers in communal or individual flats. Members noted that it is generally well documented and accepted that a sprinkler system is one of the most effective tools available to prevent the spread of fire in high-rise blocks of flats. The installation of sprinklers in high-rise blocks of flats has significant benefits including:

- ☐ enhancing the safety of occupants and firefighters in the event of fire in the property;
- ☐ reducing the costs of a fire on local authorities and other property owners affected;
- ☐ reducing the financial consequences and other burdens associated with fires;
- ☐ reducing the demands on fire and rescue, police and ambulance/health services responding to events and the aftermath of major fires in high-rise accommodation;
- ☐ helping address shortcomings in other fire protection measures such as compartmentation.

Members agreed that their focus was on the five tower blocks that form part of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) namely:

- ☐ Great Arthur House, Golden Lane;
- ☐ Petticoat Tower, Middlesex Street;
- ☐ West Point, Avondale Estate;
- ☐ Central Point, Avondale Estate;
- ☐ East Point, Avondale Estate.

The feasibility study gave indications of the total cost for both tenant and leaseholder flats, which do not include fees, VAT and on-going maintenance costs. These amounted to a total of £2,507,936.

Given the importance of this matter, Counsel's opinion has been sought on the ability of the CoLC to recharge leaseholders for fire safety works. Members noted that a report will be presented to this Committee in due course.

Members agreed that retro-fitting sprinklers across all our social housing high rise towers had many benefits including the obvious benefits that sprinklers provide (as outlined within this report), the potential cost implications if retro-fitting does become a legal requirement and the avoidance of a divergence within the City's high-rise flats.

Resolved – that Members:

1. Note, consider and discuss the work that has been done on potential improvement works to enhance the safety of the CoLC's social housing portfolio and its residents in the event of fire.
2. Note the completion of the 2018 fire risk assessments for the CoLC's social housing portfolio and agree and approve the outline 'action plan' for dealing with the improvements required.
3. Provide advice and guidance to officers on the strategic direction the CoLC should take in its approach to fire safety.
4. Agree the retro-fitting of Automatic Water Fire Suppression Systems (Sprinklers) for Great Arthur House and the retro-fitting of sprinklers to the four remaining social housing high rise tower blocks.

10. **ASSOCIATION OF LONDON DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SECTOR LED IMPROVEMENT**

Members were presented with a self-assessment of the effectiveness of the City of London (CoL) Children's Services functions and an evaluation of strengths and areas that require development. It will be used as part of a peer challenge process with other local authorities to enable sector-wide learning and service improvement.

Resolved – that the update be received.

11. **LOCAL PROCUREMENT OF SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES**

The transformation of sexual health services in London is designed to reduce costs and improve outcomes for users of sexual health services.

This report considers the North Central London procurement of clinic-based sexual health services, of which Hackney and the City of London form a single distinct lot. This is part of the London-wide transformation of clinic-based sexual health services.

In response to a query Members noted that the model and specification was been developed in consultation with a variety of stakeholders to help meet the growing demand and need for sexual health provision in London.

Members were informed that the e-service had been introduced under a soft launch approach and it would now be widely promoted to members of the public.

Resolved – that Members note the procurement process and endorse the award of the contract to the successful bidder, The Homerton Hospital.

12. **FORMER RICHARD CLOUDESLEY SCHOOL SITE**

The update provided Members with information relating to the undertakings and the City Corporation entering into an agreement with, and give covenants to the relevant local planning authorities under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in connection with the grant of planning permission for a new primary school and social housing on the former Richard Cloudesley School Site. Authority is also sought in connection with related Community Infrastructure Levy matters.

Members noted that to enable the planning permission to be issued in advance of the Section 106 Agreement being completed, it is proposed that the Section 106 obligations be contained in an Undertaking.

Resolved – that Members authorised:

- ☐ The Director of Children's and Community Services be authorised to sign Undertakings.
- ☐ The Director of Children's and Community Services be authorised to agree and instruct the Comptroller and City Solicitor to enter into a Section 106 Agreement to provide covenants in respect of the Heads of Terms.
- ☐ The Director of Children's and Community Services be authorised to take all necessary steps in respect of Community Infrastructure Levy in connection with the implementation of the planning permission, including in relation to liability or transfer of liability and in relation to Social Housing Relief.

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

There were no questions.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED – 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.

16. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

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

17. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES AND SOCIAL HOUSING ON THE FORMER RICHARD CLOUDESLEY SCHOOL SITE, GOLDEN LANE EC1- ISSUE REPORT

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

18. GREAT ARTHUR HOUSE - NEW CURTAIN WALLING AND WINDOW REPLACEMENT - ISSUE REPORT

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

19. HOUSING STOCK CONDITION SURVEY

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

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 1:20pm

Chairman

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