



Community & Children's Services Committee

Date: FRIDAY, 12 APRIL 2019
Time: 11.30 am
Venue: COMMITTEE ROOMS, WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members:

Randall Anderson (Chairman)	Laura Jørgensen (Co-optee)
Dhruv Patel OBE (Deputy Chairman)	Angus Knowles-Cutler
George Abrahams	Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen
Munsur Ali	Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Rehana Ameer	Benjamin Murphy
Tom Anderson	Deputy Joyce Nash
Matthew Bell	Barbara Newman
Peter Bennett	Susan Pearson
Mary Durcan	William Pimlott
John Fletcher	Matt Piper (Co-optee)
Marianne Fredericks	Henrika Priest
Alderman John Garbutt	Jason Pritchard
Alderman Prem Goyal OBE JP	James de Sausmarez
Alderman David Graves	Ruby Sayed
Caroline Haines	Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Deputy the Revd Stephen Haines	
Graeme Harrower	
Deputy Henry Jones	

Enquiries: Julie Mayer – 0207 3321410
julie.mayer@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Lunch will be served in Guildhall Club at 1PM
NB: Part of this meeting could be the subject of audio or video recording

John Barradell
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

Part 1 - Public Reports

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
3. **MINUTES**
To approve the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 8th March 2019.

For Decision
(Pages 1 - 8)
4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**
Members are asked to note the Committee's outstanding actions list.

For Information
(Pages 9 - 10)
5. **IMPACT OF BREXIT**
Director of Community and Children's Services to be heard.

For Information
6. **HOUSING PROPERTY SERVICES - ACHIEVEMENTS 2018**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

For Information
(Pages 11 - 16)
7. **REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

For Information
(Pages 17 - 20)
8. **BUDGET ANALYSIS**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

For Information
(Pages 21 - 24)
9. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
11. **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.

For Decision

Part 2 - Non-Public Reports

12. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
To approve the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2019.
For Decision
(Pages 25 - 28)
13. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS - NON-PUBLIC**
Members are asked to note the non-public items on the Committee's outstanding actions list.
For Information
(Pages 29 - 30)
14. **NEW PARTNERSHIP SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
For Information
(Pages 31 - 36)
15. **WILLIAM BLAKE ESTATE AND DRON HOUSE DOOR ENTRY SYSTEM REPLACEMENT**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
For Decision
(Pages 37 - 48)
16. **WAIVER REPORT (WLOF0120) - RULE 25 PROCUREMENT CODE**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
For Decision
(Pages 49 - 54)
17. **WAIVER REPORT (WLOF0124) - RULE 25 PROCUREMENT CODE**
Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
For Decision
(Pages 55 - 60)
18. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
19. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

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COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 8 March 2019

Minutes of the meeting held at Guildhall at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Randall Anderson (Chairman)
Dhruv Patel OBE (Deputy Chairman)
Munsur Ali
Peter Bennett
Mary Durcan
John Fletcher
Marianne Fredericks
Alderman John Garbutt
Alderman Prem Goyal OBE JP
Alderman David Graves
Caroline Haines
Deputy the Revd Stephen Haines

Natasha Lloyd-Owen
Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Deputy Joyce Nash
Barbara Newman
Susan Pearson
William Pimlott
Jason Pritchard
James de Sausmarez
Ruby Sayed
Deputy Philip Woodhouse

Officers:

Andrew Carter	- Director of Community & Children's Services
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlains
Mark Lowman	- City Surveyors
Steven Bage	- City Surveyors
Simon Cribbens	- Community & Children's Services
Tinu Williamson-Taylor	- Community & Children's Services
Kirstie Hilton	- Community & Children's Services
Marcus Roberts	- Community & Children's Services
Gerald Mehrtens	- Community & Children's Services
Paul Murtagh	- Community & Children's Services
Chris Pelham	- Community & Children's Services
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerks, Media Team
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerks, Committee and Member Services
Jack Joslin	- Town Clerks, Central Grants Unit

Devora Wolfson – Programme Director Integrated Commissioning, London Borough of Hackney (for item 6)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Matthew Bell, Graeme Harrower, Deputy Henry Jones, Henrika Priest and James De Sausmarez.

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

Munsur Ali declared a general non-pecuniary interest by virtue of his position as a Trustee of Aldgate Community Events (at item 11 on the agenda).

Susan Pearson asked for an amendment to be recorded in the draft minutes of 8th February 2019 in respect of her declaration of interests. The suggested text had been emailed to the Town Clerk, and agreed by the Chairman, and the amendment would be made before the minutes of 8th February 2019 were agreed as a formal record of the meeting.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 8th February 2019 be approved as a correct record, subject to recording Mrs Mary Durcan as having been present, and the inclusion of the amendments in respect of Ms Susan Pearson's interests, which had been emailed to the Town Clerk and agreed by the Chairman.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Members received the Committee's Outstanding Actions list and noted the items thereon which either had or would be discharged on this and future agendas. Members asked if target dates could be added wherever possible.

5. **BREXIT UPDATE**

The Director was heard in respect of the latest implications arising from BREXIT. Members were reminded that the position was likely to be clearer following the Commons vote on 12th March 2019. For the time being, the Director and his team continued working with colleagues across services on contingency planning.

6. **INTEGRATION UPDATE**

Members received a presentation from Devora Wolfson, Programme Director, Integrated Commissioning, City and Hackney CCG.

In response to questions, Members noted that there wasn't a dedicated workstream for mental health as it was covered by all of them. The rise in the number of children and young people with mental health issues was discussed and Members noted that CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services) were working on a model for young people up to 25 years, in consultation with schools and community groups, so as to avoid a 'dip' once a young person reached adulthood. Members also noted that the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) were spending more comparatively in this area and it was a key objective of the Mayor of London.

The Chairman and Members thanked the Programme Director for an insightful presentation.

7. **CITY & HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18**

Members received a report of the Independent Chair of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board (CHSCB) and noted that the Annual Report for 2017/18 was currently embargoed, subject to finalisation and publication to the CHSCB web site. The Town Clerk had emailed the draft to Members separately, noting this caveat.

The Chair highlighted the key points from the report and Members noted that the data would evidence confident and competent staff; a very pro-active safeguarding provision and exemplary early interventions. Members also noted that the team were doing excellent work with partners on suicide prevention. The Chair thanked the City of London Corporation for funding the Safeguarding Children Conference, which had focussed on contextualising safeguarding issues. There were further commendations for strong leadership, which encouraged professional curiosity and promoted challenge. Members were reminded of the City Corporation's 2016 Outstanding Ofsted rating for leadership and there was strong evidence of this continuing.

The Independent Chair explained that the Board was carrying 3 vacancies but recruitment had been suspended pending deliberations as to the structure of the new Board. Members noted that, as the current Board was working very well, there were no plans to alter its structure any more than was necessary. Members would receive a report to their next meeting as to how this might be accomplished.

RESOLVED, that – the draft report be noted, subject to receipt of the final version which would be published on the CHSCB website.

8. CARERS STRATEGY: 2019-23

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services and noted that this was a very high-level strategy, which would lead to an action plan and measured outcomes. Members commended a good report.

Members noted that only 55 carers were registered as being eligible for assistance but 576 were self-identified. The Director advised that the Department were seeking to address this via a rigorous communications campaign across GP surgeries and other effective means. The challenge of assisting young carers was also discussed and officers advised that awareness of self-identification was raised through schools and youth services. Members noted that appreciation for carers was shown at various events across the City Corporation.

RESOLVED, That – the Carers' Strategy, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

9. DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN QUARTER 3 UPDATE

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which provided the Quarter 3 update of the Department's 2017-22 Business Plan. During the discussion on this item, the following points were noted:

- The number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS) peaked in the autumn but this was largely a reflection of the time of year, with a lot of young people recorded as 'unknown

destination' in the Autumn term and the number was likely to settle in the next quarter.

- The recent rise in homelessness was being actioned through the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee's work stream. The Chairman of the Sub Committee advised that a briefing note would be circulated to all Members of the Court, ahead of the Wardmotes in March. Members were encouraged to feed back on any questions raised at their wardmotes. Members also noted the importance of clarifying the definition of '*long-term rough sleeping*'; which was being considered by the Sub-Committee.
- The circulation of the Business Healthy Newsletter had dropped recently, due to the impact of GDPR.
- Whilst it was accepted that some risks could not be controlled, focus should remain on performance to enable scrutiny by the Integrated Commissioning Board. Members noted there was a key national indicator on partnership working.

RESOLVED, That – the Quarter 3 Progress of the Community and Children's Services 2017-22 be noted.

10. **DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2019-2020**

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which presented the Department's business plan for 2019-20. Members noted that the plan was high level and the work underway below it contained more detail.

There was some discussion as to whether rough sleepers were residents or part of the local community, particularly in respect of their health care requirements. Member noted that, given priority was based on need, it was important to try to reconnect rough sleepers. Officers agreed to look at a definition and Members noted that the Integrated Commissioning Board was considering rough sleepers' health care requirements.

RESOLVED, That – the high level Business Plan for 2019-20 be approved.

11. **STRONGER COMMUNITIES GRANTS PROGRAMME**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the recent round of Stronger Communities Grant Funding, which had closed in November 2018. Members noted that the deadline for the next round would be advertised widely, via the Communications Team, and Members would be notified. The officer advised that applications were generally only accepted on-line, to ensure speed of assessment and cost efficiency. However, to ensure the programme was fully accessible, applications could be accepted in other formats where required.

RESOLVED, That – the report be noted.

12. SIR JOHN CASS'S FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the educational outcomes for primary school-aged children living in the City of London. During the discussion on this item the following points were noted:

- Since September 2018, free school meals had been provided for all primary school children at Sir John Cass School from Year-3 to Year-6. This was in addition to the offer of free school meals for all children in Reception and Years 1 and 7. Members would receive a report to May's committee on the impact from this.
- Good Key Stage 1 results and a focussed improvement on Key Stage 2, following a dip last year. Members noted that, whilst there had been some intervention in respect of girls' performance in maths no particular groups were under-achieving. Furthermore, given that governors received termly reports, any such trends would be noticed immediately. Members commended the school's successful Anti-bullying Policy and the buy-in from both students and parents.
- The school had an excellent SEN provision and the identification of more children with additional needs had resulted in an increase in the numbers.
- Whilst some parts of the country had experienced difficulty in recruiting Governors, the last round of recruitment at Sir John Cass had been over-subscribed. The school had set up a parents forum to ensure that those parents who had expressed an interest, but not been appointed, still had an opportunity to contribute. Members noted that following the School's reconstitution more governors would be appointed.

RESOLVED, That – the report be noted.

13. INTRODUCING AGILE WORKING

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of Agile Working; a corporate objective of the City of London Corporation. Members noted that staff were fully engaged and the City Corporation's IT infrastructure was now robust enough to support this, with the introduction of 'skype for business' etc. Members noted that officers would continue to work with IT colleagues and provide clear guidance for managers and staff.

RESOLVED, That – the report be noted.

14. FIRE SAFETY UPDATE - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) PROPERTIES

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which updated them on progress in respect of Fire Safety matters since the last update in October 2018.

During the discussion on this item, the following points were noted:

- Members noted that, under the Housing Act, local authorities had certain responsibilities relating to private residential buildings within their boroughs. Following the Grenfell Tower tragedy, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) had identified over 100 privately-owned high-rise residential buildings within the City's area of responsibility. The MHCLG instructed that the City provided confirmation that none of these buildings had been fitted with ACM cladding that had been fitted at Grenfell. This was a considerably onerous task. The Assistant Director wrote to all these properties requesting information and identified one, a hotel, which had ACM cladding. The hotel is working with the London Fire Brigade and, in accordance with the Housing Act, the City Corporation is required to monitor this. Members noted that the Government continues to work with other cladding manufacturers to assess the safety of their products in the event of fire. Local authorities concerned have been alerted to the possibility of further investigations.
- Fire door testing continues in the specialist facility in Poland and once all the results have been analysed, priorities for the door replacement programme will be finalised.
- The City Corporation has a detailed review procedure for fire risk assessments across the whole of the Corporation, which is scrutinised by the Health and Wellbeing Board quarterly, in addition to internal reviews within the Community and Children's Services Department.
- In accordance with case law, if the door replacement programme was classified as an improvement, then leaseholders could not be re-charged. Furthermore, leaseholders were not required to allow the City Corporation access to replace their doors but Members noted that this could have serious implications in terms of other residents.

RESOLVED, That – the report be noted.

15. HOUSING DELIVERY PROGRAMME - RESIDENT CONSULTATION UPDATE

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the progress made on consulting with residents and stakeholders on proposals for new homes on the Sydenham Hill Estate, Sumner Buildings, Avondale Square Estate, Windsor House Estate and York Way Estate. Members noted that the City Corporation now has a good track record for consulting with residents and gaining support and the Director thanked Members for championing this.

RESOLVED, That – the report be noted.

16. UPDATE ON ROLE-OUT OF FIBRE BROADBAND TO CITY OF LONDON HOUSING ESTATES

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the role-out of fibre broadband to the City of London Housing Estates. The officer advised that he had been updated that morning in respect of the fibre coils, which would be concealed behind panelling. Members noted that the project covered estates under the City Corporation's ownership but the companies engaged were very active across London. The officer agreed to investigate whether the project could extend to Mansell Street.

RESOLVED, That – the report be noted.

17. PETTICOAT TOWER FIRE DOORS

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which sought authority to start work on Petticoat Tower Fire Doors. Members asked if residents could be updated on progress ahead of the Ward Motes in March 2019. Member noted that they would receive an update on a commercially sensitive matter on this contract, during the non-public part of the agenda.

RESOLVED, That –

1. Ventro be appointed to carry out the works.
2. The works budget of £274,268.09 be approved.
3. An additional budget of £20,570.11 be approved to cover staff costs.
4. Fees of £2,000 be approved in respect of the building regulations application.
5. Expenditure to date of £1,590 be noted.
6. The new overall project cost (including expenditure to date) be noted.

At 1pm, Members agreed to suspend standing orders for 15 minutes to conclude the business on the agenda.

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

There were no questions.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

Subsequent to the meeting, the date and time of the May Committee meeting was confirmed as 2.30pm on 8th May 2019.

20. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

MOTION – That under Section 100(A) 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 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item	Para no(s)
21-26	3

21. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2019 be approved, subject to the amendments in respect of Ms Susan Pearson's interests, which had been emailed to the Town Clerk and agreed by the Chairman.

22. **HOUSING DELIVERY PROGRAMME - PROGRESS REPORT**

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

23. **MAJOR CONSTRUCTION WORKS (HOUSING) FRAMEWORK - STAGE 2 AWARD REPORT**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services

24. **RENEWAL OF ROOF COVERINGS AT DRON HOUSE, TOWER HAMLETS**

Members considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

25. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED.**

There was one question whilst the public were excluded.

26. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were 2 items of business received and considered whilst the public were excluded.

The meeting ended at 1.15 pm.

Chairman

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julie.mayer@cityoflondon.gov.uk**

COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE – OUTSTANDING ACTIONS LIST APRIL 2019 (PUBLIC)			
Date added	Title	Action	Officer and target date
8-2-19	SOCIAL WELLBEING STRATEGY	Members asked if the Researcher could give a presentation to a future meeting of the Committee.	Neighbourhoods Development and Engagement Manager June committee - subject to report being finalised by then and the availability of the researcher. (draft expected end of April 2019)
8-3-19	CITY & HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18	Report to next meeting of the Committee about the structure of the new Safeguarding Boards.	Assistant Director, People 12 April 2019
8-3-19	DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN	Definition of ' <i>rough sleepers</i> ' – in terms of their status in the community and in helping to identify their health care needs.	Head of Strategy and Performance (and the work of the Safeguarding Sub Committee)
8-3-19	SIR JOHN CASS'S FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL	Provision of free school meals for children in Reception and Years 1 and 7	Head of Service Education and Early Years Report to the 8 May 2019 Community and Children's Services Committee
8-3-19	UPDATE ON ROLL-OUT OF FIBRE BROADBAND TO CITY OF LONDON HOUSING ESTATES	Investigate whether the project could extend to Mansell Street	Strategic Infrastructure Advisor, City Surveyors

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Committee	Dated:
Community & Children's Services	12/04/2019
Subject: Housing Property Services – Achievements 2018	Public
Report of: Director of Community & Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Mike Saunders Asset Manager, Barbican & Housing	

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the work and positive outcomes of the Housing property Services Team for 2018.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note, consider and comment on the contents of the report.

Main Report

Introduction

1. At the start of the 2018, there were 29 projects that made up the HRA Major Works Improvement Programme and, by the end of the year, there were 24, with the majority of those now in progress. Eight projects have suffered short delays for various reasons including, extended procurement processes due to insufficient tenders received, additional governance processes to secure additional funding, additional design changes and resident consultation beyond what was reasonably expected.
2. This report identifies some of the challenges that we face in delivering a Major Works Improvement Programme of such a scale, scope and complexity. Most of these challenges arise simply as a result of the number of different works programmes that are being done within a relatively short period of time. Whilst we do put a lot of thought and effort in planning the various works, the scale of the 'catch-up' programme is such that having multiple projects carried out simultaneously is simply unavoidable.

3. The information contained in this report, for ease of reference, is broken down on an estate-by-estate basis and, outlines the internal enhancements made within the Housing Property Services team to improve and expedite the delivery of the HRA Major Works Improvement Programme.

Programme

Middlesex Street Estate

4. The project to renew the balcony doors and windows is due to start on site very shortly, subject to the execution of the contract. This will mean that, once complete, the whole of the Middlesex Street Estate will have benefited from replacement double-glazed windows.
5. Works to convert the retail space at podium level into 10 new units for social housing is due to complete at the end of May, three months earlier than programme. This will provide much needed accommodation for residents on our housing waiting list. The contractor carrying out this work, Vinci Construction UK, facilitated a very successful Christmas Community Social Event that was held on 13 December last year and was very well received by residents and the local community.
6. The concrete repair contract for the Middlesex Street Estate is well underway and is on schedule to complete as programmed.
7. Destructive fire testing has been carried out on several doors to tenants' homes across most of our housing estates. A contract for the replacement of fire doors in Petticoat Tower on the Middlesex Street Estate has been procured and, work is due to start on site very shortly.
8. As part of our electrical safety and upgrade programme, all emergency lights across the Middlesex Street Estate have been replaced. The new LED lights have an energy requirement that is three times lower than the original lights and are expected to have paid for themselves within two years.
9. There are significant challenges with the various major works programmes on the Middlesex Street Estate, as there are for many of our other estates. As previously stated, most of these challenges arise simply as a result of the number of different works programmes that are being done within a relatively short period of time. For example, the fire safety works, conversion works, concrete repair works, and door/window works require a high level of co-ordination of different contractors.
10. The project to replace the stairwell panels in Petticoat Tower suffered unexpected delays as a result of a lack of interest from contractors when it was advertised. This has led to a review of the procurement process with colleagues in City Procurement and an agreement to adopt a more proactive approach to the tender process going forward.

Holloway Estate

11. A programme of electrical testing and remedial works to our tenanted properties has been completed and the testing of the landlord's installations (common parts and the like) is underway. Customer satisfaction levels were extremely high (100%) and the work included adaptations for less able residents such as, lowering consumer units, hush switches for smoke detectors and switches and sockets in positions that are more easily accessible.
12. As part of our electrical safety and upgrade programme, new emergency lights have been installed across the estate. The new LED lights have an energy requirement that is three times lower than the original lights and are expected to have paid for themselves within two years.
13. All our tenanted properties on the Holloway Estate have now benefited from the electrical testing programme and subsequent remedial works and rewiring have also been carried out. These homes will not need testing as part of the cyclical maintenance programme for at least another five years.
14. By combining the various electrical works on the Holloway Estate into one project, we have been able to ensure a more co-ordinated and controlled approach to the works as well as, achieving economies of scale and greater value for money.

York Way Estate

15. The bin stores at Penfields House, Kinefold House and Lambfold House have had steel gates fitted to prevent fly tipping and reduce the risk of fires being started in the bin store areas. Residents are obviously provided with access.
16. The redecoration programme is underway across the whole of the York Way Estate and remains on schedule.
17. The Community Centre toilets have recently been renovated and can now be used by residents and visitors. The building was originally a nursery and, as such, the toilets were previously only suitable for children. The new modern facilities are suitable for people of all ages and are Part M compliant for disabled users.

Avondale Estate

18. Phase II of the Decent Homes Programme is now complete, with 77 homes benefiting from new kitchens and/or new bathrooms. Customer satisfaction was extremely high (97%) and it is estimated that the project, which finished on time, will come in 25% below the agreed budget.
19. A survey of the street and estate lighting has recently been completed to identify the work required to bring the lighting up to a modern and high standard. The work will be put out to tender shortly.

20. The Avondale Estate is being considered for future potential development opportunities. The challenge has been to align the various works programmes with potential development works to ensure that no 'abortive' work is carried out and potential development opportunities are not compromised. In addition, due consideration has been given to ensuring residents are properly consulted and informed on future proposals for their estate.

Golden Lane Estate

21. Great Arthur House has benefited from the installation of a modern, fully compliant fire alarm system along with smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. All detectors are fully interrogatable and connect wirelessly to SMART devices.
22. Many properties in seven blocks on the Golden Lane Estate (excluding Crescent House and Cullum Welch House) have benefitted from new heating systems and, the new condensing boilers fitted as part of these works comply with the Air Quality Standards for the Square Mile. These new installations will go some way to helping reduce heating bills and the likelihood of fuel poverty.
23. The Concrete Repair contract for the Golden Lane Estate, except for Cullum Welch House, is nearing completion. To achieve this, we have developed an improved methodology for the concrete repairs that meets the requirements of planning and the Grade II listed status of the buildings.
24. The £1.3million refurbishment of the Golden Lane Community Centre has been completed and a very successful opening event was held on 14 July 2018. The newly refurbished building is proving to be extremely popular amongst residents and the demand for bookings is high.
25. There are several challenges that we have faced, and continue to face, in delivering such an extensive programme of works on the Golden Lane Estate. These include the listed status of the estate, the need to consult with external bodies such as Historic England and the Twentieth Century Society and the co-ordination and programming of various projects to facilitate adequate site facilities for all contracts.

Multi Estate Works

26. The Decent Homes Programme is nearing completion with work currently underway on the Golden Lane Estate. So far on the Golden Lane Estate, 21 new kitchens and 33 new bathrooms have been fitted. In addition, five new central heating boilers will be fitted. This has been a very challenging project with the need to comply fully with the requirements of planning and the listed status of the block. Other similarly completed works include:
- York Way Estate – 27 kitchens and 77 new bathrooms installed;
 - Windsor House – 50 kitchens and 54 new bathrooms installed along with three new boilers;

- Dron House – 23 kitchens and 19 new bathrooms installed along with one new boiler;
- Southwark Estate – 96 kitchens and 108 new bathrooms installed along with five new boilers;
- Sydenham Hill Estate – 11 kitchens and 13 new bathrooms installed along with two new boilers;

27. Following previous issues with the contractor on the original Decent Homes Programme making significant often unsubstantiated claims for 'extras', Housing Property Services introduced a new form of specification and contract that has proved successful in managing subsequent contracts. This has allowed the inclusion of genuine additional items such as, fire stopping, to be incorporated in the works whilst remaining within budget.

28. The Decent Homes Call Back Programme, which caters for properties that were previously missed due mainly, to tenant refusals to have the works done, delivered a further 29 new kitchens and/or 17 new bathrooms in 35 properties.

29. The Lift Refurbishment Scheme Phase 1 came to a successful conclusion in April 2018. The scheme included the refurbishment of the following existing passenger lifts:

- Golden Lane Estate – 10 lifts;
- William Blake Estate – 2 lifts;
- Collinson Court, Southwark Estates – 2 lifts.

This project was scheduled over a period of 2½ years and was delivered on time, nearly £250,000 below budget and to a very high standard.

30. The cyclical redecoration works have been completed on the Middlesex Street Estate and, in part as an interim measure, on the Golden Lane Estate. Works have now started ahead of schedule on the York Way and Avondale Estates.

Property Services

31. There has been a significant amount of work done in conjunction with colleagues in City Procurement to improve the tender process for works within Housing Property Services and although, as Members will be aware, there is still much to be done, we are seeing an improvement in the quality of the tender process and the submissions we receive.

32. Following an OJEU compliant procurement process, a new Repairs and Maintenance Contract was awarded that will give us more clarity and certainty in the administration of this works. This is a more intrusive contract for a period of five years (with a break clause after three years). The contract provides for better performance monitoring through an improved suite of Key Performance Indicators and post-completion audits, as informed by our tenants. It is intended that the Property Services Officers will also post inspect at least 15% of all jobs completed.

33. An OJEU compliant procurement process for the maintenance of lifts across the whole of our social housing estates (133 lifts in total) has recently been completed. Tenders are currently being analysed and, it is intended that the new contract will commence in July this year.
34. In ensuring that we make the best use of available technology, a new Asset Management Software Application was rolled out across all projects and is actively being used by all Project Managers.
35. In line with our Housing Communications Strategy previously approved by Members, communication with residents has improved significantly through a structured and targeted programme of project consultation, information events such as 'Meet the Contractor', Drop-In sessions and Progress Meetings. Most of these events are very well attended and are proving popular.
36. For the specific benefit of residents on the Golden Lane and Middlesex Street Estates to keep them updated with progress on the multiple projects being carried out on their estate, we produce and deliver, updates and newsletters on a weekly/bi-weekly basis. Newsletters are delivered by email and by hand, as well as being made available on Estate Facebook pages.
37. The Golden Lane Estate now has a dedicated 'Golden Lane Major Works' webpage, which is updated on at least a monthly basis. The webpage provides succinct information on all major works with links to relevant documents for those residents who prefer to receive information on line.

Financial Considerations (Leaseholders)

38. The HRA Major Works Improvement Programme is a significant programme both in terms of its scale and, its cost, which is estimated to be in the region of £55million. With the inclusion of fire safety improvement works such as the installation of sprinklers in our five high-rise blocks and, the door replacement programme, the estimated cost will likely increase by a further £10million.
39. A significant number of leaseholders live on our social housing estates and, the successful recovery of leaseholder contributions for works included in the HRA Major Works Improvement Programme is crucial to our Business Plan.
40. In order to ensure that leaseholder contributions can be recovered, we are required to comply with the specific provisions of Section 20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985, as amended by the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act (CLRA) 2002, which involves leasehold property and consultation with leaseholders on major works.
41. The scale of the HRA Major Works Improvement Programme and, the number of projects that it includes, means that leaseholders across our social housing estates are now faced with significant bills for their legitimate contributions towards the cost of the various works. As a result, we are understandably, experiencing much greater challenges and scrutiny from leaseholders in relation to the various works programmes that has, on occasions, led to delays in progress.

Committee:	Dated:
Community and Children's Services Committee	12 April 2019
Subject: Regional Adoption Agency	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Chris Pelham, Assistant Director People	

Summary

Members of the Community and Children's Services Committee were informed in June 2018 of the plans for the City of London to become a member of a new Regional Adoption Agency (RAA). This is as part of a 'hub and spoke' model with Coram Capital Adoption, Harrow, Redbridge and other local authority areas that had expressed an interest in joining the new arrangements. This model was built on the already established relationship the City of London had with Coram Capital Adoption, the group that has delivered our adoption services for four years.

Members approved the plan to develop these new arrangements. This report is to update Members on these arrangements and confirm that the new RAA, 'Ambitious for Adoption', will be 'going live' from 29 April, 2019.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report for information.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London (CoL) has very few children needing to be placed for adoption. At the time of this report, there have not been any adoption orders made since 2012.
2. Given the local demographic context and the specialist skills and knowledge required to deliver a local authority-based adoption service, in 2015 the CoL commissioned Coram Capital Adoption to deliver its adoption functions. This included recruiting and assessing potential adopters, and ensuring that the service infrastructure for adoption is in keeping with regulatory requirements. This service management model drew the CoL into a 'regional' framework with other local authorities, Harrow and Redbridge, which were already part of the Coram Capital Adoption arrangements.

3. At the same time in 2015, the Government set out a requirement to improve adoption practices across the country by establishing new RAAs, which had to be in place by 2020.
4. As a result of this requirement, the CoL, along with all other London local authorities, was part of a regional discussion to plan the development of a London-wide RAA. At the same time, the CoL was part of the project proposal to develop a separate RAA built on the foundations already established with Coram Capital Adoption, Harrow and Redbridge. This project took the title of 'Ambitious for Adoption'.
5. In April 2018, the Department for Education (DfE) approved the Ambitious for Adoption project proposal for a new RAA to be developed. This would involve Harrow as lead local authority, Coram Capital Adoption as a strategic partner, and CoL, Redbridge, Slough Children's Services Trust and Bromley as participating local authorities. As a result, the CoL withdrew from the London-wide RAA discussion in order to continue to be part of the new RAA Ambitious for Adoption proposal.
6. During this development phase, the CoL has continued to commission Coram Capital Adoption to deliver its adoption services, under current contractual arrangements.

Current Position

7. The original plan to have the RAA go live in November 2018 was put back to April 2019 to accommodate the commissioning of Coram Capital Adoption as the Voluntary Adoption Agency provider. This would also address growing interest from other areas to join the new RAA.
8. Ambitious for Adoption has continued to develop its governance, structural and financial arrangements with the intentions of becoming an RAA by April 2019. The DfE has monitored this work, and set out an expectation that all areas have to be part of an RAA by April 2020.
9. The plan is for Ambitious for Adoption to go live from 29 April 2019. This will see Harrow as the lead local authority, CoL and Redbridge coming together with Coram Capital Adoption to form the new RAA. Other local authority areas, including Bromley, Slough Children's Services Trust, Waltham Forest and Hillingdon, will join at later dates.
10. A Strategic Governance Board, represented at Director level and chaired by the Harrow Director Children's Services, has overseen the development of the RAA.
11. The RAA will focus on excellent practice and improved outcomes for children by applying established best practice as core – this includes systematic early permanence planning and placement, preventive as well as therapeutic

adoption support utilising evidenced programmes – approaches recognised as ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted.

12. The hub will manage the service from a central London location, led by a dedicated RAA Managing Director/Head of Service responsible for:

- Sufficiency planning
- Quality assurance
- Inspection readiness and reporting
- Panel administration
- Contract supervision for fulfilment of sub-contracted/commissioned services (including peer support, inter-country adoption and birth family support)
- Operational compliance and resilience including General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Financial administration
- Employment and human resources management
- Information systems and data governance.

13. The hub will deliver the following core services:

- Recruitment and assessment of adopters
- Dual approval of concurrent planning/fostering for adoption carers and contact delivery
- Matching process and recommendation (to the local authority for final decision)
- Delivery of pan-RAA therapeutic parenting groups and specialist therapeutic support and assessment for the Adoption Support Fund
- Sub-contracting/commissioning for specialist areas/suppliers, expected to include inter-country adoption, young people’s groups, adopter peer support services and birth parent counselling.

14. The RAA has attracted considerable interest from other local authority areas. Since June 2018, Bromley and Slough have continued to be part of the Ambitious for Adoption planning arrangements. They anticipate formally joining post-April 2019. Waltham Forest and Hillingdon have also subsequently joined the RAA during this development phase, and they will also formally join at a later date post-April 2019.

15. This demonstrates the viability and benefit of local authorities working together across the geography of London and west of London area, utilising a shared centrally located hub that reflects the transport network for maximum accessibility by adopters and young people, and maximises the recruitment and engagement of staff.

Implications

16. Strategic: The new RAA aligns with our ambitions for our children and families, as set out in the Children and Young People's Plan and the Corporate Plan. It is also compliant with the Government aim for regionalising adoption by 2020.

17. Financial: There has been a small annual uplift to accommodate the increase in adoption planning activity that has taken place in the City. This has been contained within the local risk budget.

18. Legal: An exemption/waiver to put in place a new contract (from 1 June to 31 March 2019) was approved in order to cover CoL during the procurement of the new RAA contract.

19. Contract period: The new RAA will operate with a five-year initial contract, with the option to extend for a further five years in periods of: two years; two years; and one year.

20. Human resources: Given the unique structure and make-up of the CoL Children's Social Care Service, there is no expectation that the new RAA arrangements will have staffing implications for the CoL.

Conclusion

21. This report updates Members on the development of the Ambitious for Adoption RAA, confirming that the new arrangements will be in place from 29 April 2019.

Appendices

- None

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Committee:	Dated:
Community and Children's Services	12/04/2019
Subject: Budget Analysis	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Simon Cribbens, Assistant Director – Commissioning and Partnerships	

Summary

The 2019/20 budget position sets out a modest increase in expenditure. This reflects increased provision for inflationary costs, and a reduction in expenditure delivered by efficiency savings. The department is confident that there will be no negative impact on – or reduction in – frontline services. The report notes the potential for future budget pressures and constraints on growth of delivery.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. A report to January's CCS Committee on the department's 2019/20 budget set out a provisional revenue budget of £13.44 million – an increase of £99,000 on the original budget for 2018/19. Members sought clarity on whether the modest increase in annual budget would impact on levels of service delivery.

Current Position

2. The 2019/20 provisional revenue budget presented to Members includes provision for a 2 per cent inflationary increase from 2018/19. It also reflects agreed uplifts in funding to address pressures in adult social care, children's social care and homelessness.
3. In 2017/18 £232,000 was added to the department's baseline budget in response to increased numbers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and associated costs. In 2018/19 a further £427,00 was added to the baseline budget to tackle increasing homelessness, and £400,000 in response to increased demand for adult social care services.

4. The overall budget also reflects a 2 per cent reduction in net expenditure – identified in line with the corporate requirement for efficiency savings. The savings – totalling £214,000 – have been achieved through budget reductions assessed as low impact. This reflects: areas where predicted cost/service utilisation has been lower than expected; where recommissioning has or will yield savings through the rationalisation of contracts; or where service costs are now being met by partner organisations.
5. Identified savings are:
 - reduced storage costs for households in temporary accommodation
 - reduced cost of several early intervention contracts (City Living Wise, Care Navigator, City Carers, City Memory Group, Befriending, shopping services) through rationalising into single contract
 - transfer of cost for providing mental health support to looked-after children to the Clinical Commissioning Group
 - reduction in design fees budget for Family and Young people's Information Service and Early Years
 - reduced consultancy costs.
6. It is not anticipated that these efficiencies will impact negatively on the level or breadth of frontline service delivery. Service delivery and outcomes are closely monitored and reported to committee through service and departmental leadership teams. This process enables the identification of changes in performance or demand so that the department can respond.
7. The Council Tax precept for social care (2 per cent) will provide some additional funding in 2019/20 that will contribute to the cost of two additional social workers and an approved mental health practitioner.

Future position

8. Some departmental activities and services have been supported by the Priorities Pot funding, which cannot be guaranteed beyond existing commitments. These include the expansion of the Street Triage service (mental health crisis intervention) and the rent subsidy for the proposed City Mental Health Centre.
9. The department benefits from considerable external government funding, which it relies on for the delivery and scale of some services. This includes:
 - a. Homeless Prevention Grant – £106,000
 - b. Rough Sleepers Initiative funding – £295,000
 - c. Better Care Fund (BCF) – estimated to be £900,000
 - d. Section 256 (health funding) – £300,000
 - e. Education and Skills Funding Agency Grant – £1,108,000
 - f. Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers Grant – £222,000
10. Such funding may be affected by the government's planned Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn of this year.

11. The government is also undertaking a 'fair funding review' that will set new baseline funding allocations for local authorities. It is anticipated that the revised funding formula will see a transfer of funding from inner-London to outer-London authorities. This change sits alongside planned changes to the Business Rate Retention Scheme which will have the effect of reducing the amount currently retained by the City Corporation.
12. Forecast budgets for the City Corporation identify financial pressures for 2020/21 which could reduce departmental budgets. The department will model the impact of any such reductions and the implications for service delivery.
13. In anticipation of such pressures, it is unlikely that the department will be able to secure in-year growth in funding to respond to new pressures or deliver new initiatives. Responding to such pressures will need to be met from within existing departmental budgets.
14. Future pressures may arise from continued growth in the City's population overall, and of the older population specifically. Population projections over the next five years predict the City's population over the age of 70 will grow at twice the rate of the population overall (just over one per cent per annum). The external environment may also lead to growing demand for services such as those responding to homelessness and the presentation of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

15. The 2019/20 budget will sustain the department's delivery of corporate and local business plan objectives and current services commitments.

Conclusion

16. The department is confident that there will be no negative impact on – or reduction in – frontline services arising from the efficiency savings identified. The impact of any future reductions in budgets will be modelled and reported to Members.

Appendices

- none

Background Papers

Revenue and Capital Budgets – 2019/20, Community and Children's Service Committee (11 January 2019).

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