

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 7 June 2019

Minutes of the meeting held at Guildhall at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Randall Anderson (Chairman)
Ruby Sayed (Deputy Chairman)
Munsur Ali
Rehana Ameer
Matthew Bell
Peter Bennett
Mary Durcan
John Fletcher
Marianne Fredericks
Alderman John Garbutt
Alderman Prem Goyal
Graeme Harrower
Catherine McGuinness
Deputy Joyce Nash
Dhruv Patel
Susan Pearson
Henrika Priest

In Attendance

Officers:

Andrew Carter	- Director of Community and Children's Services
Gerald Mehrtens	- Community and Children's Services
Chris Pelham	- Community and Children's Services
Geraldine Pote	- Community and Children's Services
Liam Gillespie	- Community and Children's Services
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerks – Communications Team
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerks
Jack Joslin	- Town Clerks – Central Grants Unit
Mark Lowman	- City Surveyor's
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlains

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from, Deputy the Rev. Stephen Haines, Caroline Haines, Alderman David Graves, Barbara Newman, Benjamin Murphy, James De Sausmarez, Deputy Philip Woodhouse, Laura Jorgensen, Natasha Lloyd-Owen, Jason Pritchard and Matt Piper.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 8th May 2019 be approved, subject to recording Matthew Bell's apologies for this meeting.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Members received the Committee's Outstanding Actions list, noting those items that either had been, or would be, discharged on either this or future agendas.

Members asked if target dates could be included, wherever possible, and noted the following updates:

- **Social Wellbeing Strategy** – the report was expected to be completed at the end of July and, after this, the Researcher would be invited to give a presentation to the Committee.
- **Provision of free school meals/budget report** – to Committee in November/December
- **Our Turn Campaign** – the Director advised that this had been subject to detailed consideration and comparisons with other local authorities. The Community and Children's Service Committee would receive a report at the July Meeting.

5. **TERMS OF REFERENCE - PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

Members received a report of the Town Clerk which sought to widen the Committee's Terms of Reference to reflect the large amount of proposed development underway on the City of London Corporation's estates.

RESOLVED, that – the Terms of Reference be amended as set out in the appendix to this report, as follows, with the updates shown in capitals:

- **Social Housing** (i.e. the management AND DEVELOPMENT of the property owned by the City of London Corporation, WITHIN ITS EXISTING ESTATES, under the Housing Revenue Account and the City Fund, in accordance with the requirements of all relevant legislation and the disposal of interests in the City of London Corporation's Housing Estates (pursuant to such policies as are from time to time laid down by the Court of Common Council)

6. **TO APPOINT A LEAD MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND TO THE VACANCIES HELD ON THE EDUCATION CHARITY AND SAFEGUARDING SUB COMMITTEES**

The Town Clerk reminded Members that there were still 2 vacancies on the Safeguarding Sub Committee and 1 on the Education Charity Sub Committee. The Chairman advised that these Sub Committees met 2 or 3 times a year and anyone interested in serving should contact the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED, that:

1. Natasha Lloyd Owen be appointed as the Lead Member for Young People.
2. John Fletcher be appointed to the Safeguarding Sub Committee.

7. **UPDATES FROM THE CHAIRS/CHAIRMEN ON THE WORK OF THE SUB COMMITTEES**

The Chairmen of the Sub Committees provided the following updates on the work of their Sub Committees:

Chairman of Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee

The Chairman was pleased to welcome Mary Durcan as the new Deputy Chairman of the Sub Committee. The Sub Committee would be looking in detail at the role of Allocated Members in an informal meeting, to be held before the next meeting of the Sub Committee on 22 July 2019.

The Major Works Programme was progressing well, with 3 projects coming in early or on time and under budget. The Chairman commended Paul Murtagh, Assistant Director, Barbican and Properties Services and his team.

Chairman of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee

Members noted the all-Member Breakfast Briefing scheduled for 18th June at 8.30 am. The Sub Committee had been running for nearly a year and included police and church representatives. A major piece of work was underway in respect of an options appraisal; seeking to review what we currently do, how we do it and what we could do.

The Sub Committees other work included liaison with mental health and drug and alcohol rehabilitation support services, begging and the City of London Police's 'Operation Luscombe' initiative. Members noted that the City of London Police did not enforce the Vagrancy Act and the City Corporation was considering supporting the repeal of the Act. Members were reminded that officers working in this area were extremely pressurised. The Chairman of the sub-committee requested that any specific queries should be directed to the Chairman (of the Sub Committee) to ensure they were channelled correctly.

8. **BUSINESS PLAN QUARTER 4 UPDATE**

Members received the Department of Community and Children's Services (DCCS) Business Plan's Quarter 4 Update, which also made reference to the Departmental Risk Register and Budget.

During the discussion and questions, the following points were noted:

- For the education targets in respect of attainment and progress, anything above zero was positive and progress was the best indicator of educational achievement.
- If a young person wanted to come off of the National Transfer Scheme, each case was considered on its own merits.
- Delayed transfer of care remained an issue but this was attributable to the NHS, and self-funding limited the assistance which the City Corporation could offer. However, officers were determining whether the navigator service could do anything further to assist the self-funders to locate appropriate facilities.
- Galleywall had received an 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating and Sir John Cass had received a 'Very Good' SIAMS rating. A Member had attended a curriculum meeting at Sir John Cass School recently and been very impressed. Members particularly noted that the new Headteacher had only been in post since September 2018 and there were no staff resignations.
- Members noted that this report was intended to be a snapshot, to enable Members to decide whether they required a more detailed report on any of the items covered.

As this was Marcus Roberts, Head of Strategy and Performance's last meeting, Members thanked him for his excellent service to the Committee and wished him well for the future.

RESOLVED, that – the Q4 report and progress of the DCCS Business Plan be noted.

9. **DRAFT ALCOHOL STRATEGY 2019-23**

Members received the City of London Corporation's draft Alcohol Strategy for 2019-23, which had been presented for information and comment to various Committees.

During the discussion and questions, Members noted the following:

- A specific measurement of successful engagement with businesses could be complex and would need to be long term. It was suggested that a Member briefing on business engagement would be helpful, hosted by the Health and Wellbeing Board Chairman.

- The distinction between ‘alcohol related offending’ and where alcohol might be a factor in an illness could be clearer.
- There were very few representations from the Public Health Team in respect of new or amended Licensing applications. Members noted that the Director of Public Health was a Member of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- There were concerns that some patrons took drugs before entering licensed premises.
- A general awareness of personal responsibility was required in respect of encouraging others to drink.
- Whilst not wanting to stifle the night-time economy, promoters must be encouraged to be responsible in respect of weekend events and the potential impact on residents. Members noted that the City of London Corporation’s ‘*Safety Thirst*’ Campaign ran annually and provided a Code of Practice for Licensed Premises.
- Whilst the Community and Children’s Services Committee operated a ‘*no drinking during office hours*’ Policy, as it was a public facing service, this was not standard across all City Departments. However, the Policy and Resources Committee and Chief Commoner were looking into this further.

RESOLVED, that:

1. The Draft Alcohol Strategy for 2019 – 23 be noted, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
2. The plan for consultation be noted.

10. **BARBICAN LIBRARY COMMUNITY SPACE**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services. Members noted that an initial proposal, to build a sound-proof lobby, was unlikely to receive Planning Permission. This report considered an alternative proposal which, if permissions were granted, would be funded by Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

The Chairman was keen to explore this further with the Barbican Association and Members noted that the proposal was supported by the Aldersgate and Cripplegate Ward members. Members noted that, if feasible, they would receive a report for decision in due course.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted, subject to comments set out above.

11. **MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services which set out progress in developing the City of London Mental Health

Centre, which had been approved by the Community and Children's Services Committee in March 2018. Members noted that, since the agenda had been circulated, there had been an update on the timeline for the project. This had been emailed to Members and copies laid around the table.

Members noted that NHS services would not be duplicated but additional services, such as extensive talk therapies, would be provided.

RESOLVED, That – the report be noted.

12. **CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME ANNUAL REPORT**

Members received a report of the Chief Grants officer and Director of City Bridge Trust which provided an update on the Central Grants Programme.

During the discussion and questions, the following points were noted:

- The programmes ran concurrently to provide the most efficient services and value for money. However, flexibility could be offered in some cases.
- The Central Grants Team (CGT) worked with officers across the City Corporation and the housing teams, particularly offered a lot of intelligence. The CGT offered bespoke support to applicants, including recently constituted, small companies.
- Officers were developing FAQs for the website, which was undergoing more general improvements. The Chairman of Policy and Resources and Chairman of CBT regularly met with London Local Authority leaders.
- The Finance Grants Oversight and Performance Sub Committee scrutinised all grants monitoring and more information on outcomes and reasons for rejections could be provided in future reports.
- A high number of rejections were due to applicants not fully understanding the criteria; however, the CGT held regular workshops and were happy to visit communities, as had been the case with 'Engaging Green Spaces'.
- There was a project underway to avoid duplication; i.e. the new Combined Relief of Poverty Charity but this process needed Charity Commission approval and could be lengthy.
- There was now a dedicated CBT officer promoting charities, working with the media team and the grant offer letter includes a link to the media team.

RESOLVED, that – the Central Grants Programme Annual report be noted.

13. SECTION 75 - AGREEMENT AND UPDATED GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES FOR INTEGRATED COMMISSIONING

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which sought Members' approval to enter into a new Section 75 Agreement, due to commence on 1st August 2019. Members noted that in respect of the Appendix, which set out the main S75 Agreement as at 8 May 2019, a number of appendices were being updated and these could be provided to Members, on request.

RESOLVED, that :

1. A new Section 75 Agreement for Integrated Commissioning be approved.
2. Authority be delegated to the Director of Community and Children's Services (in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee) to finalise all necessary details and arrangements in relation to the Section 75 Agreement.
3. The updated Terms of Reference for the Integrated Commissioning Board, which includes the Integrated Commissioning Sub-Committee, be approved.

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

There were no questions.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items.

16. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that – Under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3, of Part 1 (Schedule 12A) of the Local Government Act.

Item No	Para No(s)
17-19	3
21	3

17. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2019 be approved.

18. NEW PARTNERSHIP SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

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

19. **CITY OF LONDON PRIMARY ACADEMY ISLINGTON (COLPAI) - GATEWAY 5 ISSUES REPORT**

Members considered and approved a Project Gateway 5, issues report of the City Surveyor.

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**

One item was raised whilst the public were excluded.

The meeting ended at 12.55 pm

Chairman

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