

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
Monday, 28 September 2020

Minutes of the meeting streamed to You Tube -
<https://youtu.be/K5XTaJPXmxQ> at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Randall Anderson (Chairman)	Alderman Alastair King
Ruby Sayed (Deputy Chairman)	Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen
George Abrahams	Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Munsur Ali	Benjamin Murphy
Matthew Bell	Deputy Joyce Nash
Peter Bennett	Dhruv Patel
Mary Durcan	Susan Pearson
Helen Fentimen	William Pimlott
Marianne Fredericks	Matt Piper (Co-optee)
Alderman David Graves	
Caroline Haines	
Graeme Harrower	
Laura Jørgensen (Co-optee)	

In Attendance

Officers:

Andrew Carter	- Director of Community and Children's Services
Dr Sandra Husbands	- Director of Public Health, City and Hackney
Chris Lovitt	- Deputy Director of Public Health, City and Hackney
Dr Adi Cooper	- City and Hackney, Adults Safeguarding Board
Raynor Griffiths	- City and Hackney, Adults Safeguarding Board
Nicholas Welland	- City Surveyor's Department
Steven Chandler	- City Surveyor's Department
Richard Chamberlain	- City Surveyor's Department
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's Department
Carol Boswarthack	- Community & Children's Services
Gerald Mehrtens	- Community & Children's Services
Paul Murtagh	- Community & Children's Services
Jason Hayes	- Community & Children's Services
Theresa Shortland	- Community & Children's Services
Chris Pelham	- Community & Children's Services
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's, Communications Department
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerk's, Committee Services
Ellen Wentworth	- Chamberlain's, IT Support
Simi Shah	- Town Clerk's, Innovation and Growth

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from John Fletcher, Alderman Bronek Masojada, Henrika Priest, Reverend Stephen Haines, James de Sausmarez and Jason Pritchard.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2020 be approved, noting that Ruby Sayed (Deputy Chairman) had been in attendance.

Matters arising

1. A Member asked about a forthcoming report, due at the Committee in November, which would set out lessons learned re: the Department's Covid responses.

A Member asked the Director about including residents' views as part of the November report.

The Director questioned the timing and resources to undertake a full consultation now and suggested a wider consultation at a later stage.

A Member strongly expressed their desire for resident consultation but with an initial understanding of the Director's position re: resources to undertake an effective consultation. The Member also expressed reservations re: levels of understanding of the Civil Contingency Act.

A Member proposed a Motion.

A Member proposed that the responses would be made public and it was agreed with the Director that officers would simply collate the responses.

The Director suggested that the letter to residents' groups should be officer neutral. The Member proposing the Motion agreed to draft this, and would send it to the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and those Committee Members who spoke on the Motion, copied to the Director and Committee Clerk, within the next 24 hours.

It was proposed by Graeme Harrower, seconded by Sue Pearson and RESOLVED, That:

'The City's elected representatives, residents' associations, Square Mile Food Bank and volunteer Covid support hubs be asked, by the Department of Community and Children's Services, for their views on the Department's response to the Covid crisis, and that their input be published in a report brought to the next meeting of this Committee on 6 November 2020'.

2. In respect of resident engagement more generally, there was a further point made in that, during the course of the year, the City of London Corporation usually holds two City Wide Resident Meetings. It was proposed by Marianne Fredericks, Seconded by Natasha Lloyd Owen and RESOLVED, that:

'The Policy and Resources Committee be asked to organise a Virtual City-Wide Residents' meeting, as soon as possible'. NB: Subsequently a resident meeting was scheduled, before the resolution was forwarded.

3. The Town Clerk agreed to include a reference to the amendment to the Terms of Reference in respect of the Lead Member for young people, which had been agreed as follows:

The nominated Lead Member for young people is charged with championing universal needs of young people living, studying or working in the City. The Lead Member will support cross Corporation working and have involvement in relevant services for young people, such as;

1. *Universal youth provision in the square mile*

2. *City Youth Forum*

3. *Apprenticeship, work experience, volunteering opportunities and Culture Mile learning, within the Terms of Reference of the Community and Children's Services Committee.*

4. In respect of a forthcoming report on the Carers Strategy, the Director advised this was an annual report, presented to the Committee early in the new Calendar year. However, it might be possible to present it earlier this year, and the Director would advise Members when this might be. The Director confirmed that consultation with service users was part of the contact and commissioner requirements.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

In response to further questions about communal electricity charges the Assistant Director agreed to reinvestigate and report back to the next committee.

5. **CITY AND HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD STRATEGY 2020-25 AND ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

The Committee received a report of the Independent Chair of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board. The report outlined the Board's new Strategy for 2020/25 and the annual report for 2019/20. The report also highlighted the actions that the Board had taken in response to the Covid-19 outbreak.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

6. **UPDATE ON COVID-19**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Director of Public Health and during the discussion and questions, the following points were noted:

- a) Whilst infections were rising across London, it had affected the City to a lesser extent; i.e. 11.5 cases per 100,000 in the past week. To add context to this, Hackney was currently at 27 but Bolton was at 200.
- b) Details of all positive tests were sent to the NHS to ensure those affected were self-isolating and to identify any close contacts. The Director and her team had been working to contact those not contacted by the national test and trace effort..
- c) The Director and her new Deputy Director of Public Health were working with the City Surveyor to identify potential sites in the City for walk in test centres. There was a number of viable options, with 3 strong possibilities. A further meeting was due later today, with an expectation of the test centre being ready within the next 2 weeks.
- d) A Task Force was now in place to support each borough and sub region in reducing infections. More impact was being made by working together across North East London, with NHS partners. City numbers were still relatively low, due to its small population and the reduced number of office workers.
- e) There was some unspent budget from Test, Track and Trace but, due to the lower numbers in the City, the numbers trained would be scaled up incrementally. The training did not take long but a recruitment exercise might be required.
- f) The Chair of the City of London Corporation's Policy and Resources Committee, also a Member of this Committee, stressed the importance of balancing the impact on the economy with the City Corporation's Public Health role. It was therefore essential that the guidance was followed, whether or not Members agreed with the approach. However, the Chair of Policy was in regular contact with City Hall in seeking an evidence-based approach and ensuring consistency in any enforcement action taken.
- g) Over the past week, the whole of London has been escalated to an area of national concern and it was now easier to get tests. However, it remained to be seen as to whether turnaround times would decrease.
- h) The Deputy Director of Public Health had met with all Heads of Schools, to discuss the impact on teachers and pupils and these issues were not unique to the City of London Corporation.
- i) Whilst the Director of Public Health was able to highlight issues, the role is limited in terms of implementing change. Members were, therefore, asked for their support in lobbying the Head of Test, Track and Trace and the Health Secretary. The Deputy Director offered to help draft a letter.

7. **RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's services, which set out the Department's approach to the next phase of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- a) The shielded cohort of 200 had been very well supported during the first lockdown and would be readily identified in the event of a second lockdown, with measures in place to reach out to others. If a national or local team spoke to someone needing extra support, they would be signed up via existing pathways. Likewise, 'befriending' was being enabled via the wellbeing element of Test, Track and Trace.
- b) The eviction ban on housing had ended but, most tenants would be entitled to 6 months' notice.
- c) The generic Covid support email address had been used a lot more at the start of the first lockdown but had since dropped off and the newsletter take up had been low. Furthermore, many of the elements they covered had since been integrated into Test, Track and Trace. Any requirements in respect of those residents 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEETS) and with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) were covered by statutory requirements.
- d) The Chairman asked if 'food insecurity' could be included on the dashboard and agreed to communicate with officers, outside of the meeting, as to how this might best be measured.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

8. **DELIVERING FOOD BANK SUPPORT IN THE CITY**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of options for longer term delivery of a foodbank in the City. The Director and Members thanked and congratulated all the food bank volunteers for their excellent service to the community, which extended beyond food and into support with mental health, domestic abuse, homelessness and benefit take-up, for example. It was recognised that some residents might find the volunteers at food banks more approachable than a statutory organisation.

Members asked that Liz King and Jo Bradman – Square Mile Foodbank be publicly recognised for their service to the local community.

It was suggested that the Department write to all volunteers, possibly providing some kind of commemoration. The Chairman asked for an update to the next meeting on how this could be taken forward.

RESOLVED, that:

1. The delivery of foodbank support in the City of London transition to the First Love Foundation, with the service being available to all City residents, assessed as needing help from the First Love Foundation. *NB. It be noted that residents of Golden Lane can also choose to seek help from the St Luke's Food Connections service.*
 2. Work be undertaken to ensure awareness among referring partners; i.e. - housing, social services, City Advice, GP services and the Jobcentre. *NB All existing clients will be offered referral to the new service for an assessment of their support needs.*
9. **DECENT HOMES AT DRON HOUSE, GOLDEN LANE, SOUTHWARK, SYDENHAM, WINDSOR AND YORK WAY ESTATES - GATEWAY 6 - OUTCOME REPORT**
- The Committee received an Outcome (Gateway 6) report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the above project. The Director advised that every effort is made to ensure that residents can remain in their homes and retain access to their facilities during the works.

RESOLVED, that:

1. The content of the report and the lessons learnt be noted.
 2. The project be closed.
10. **CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION COMBINED RELIEF OF POVERTY CHARITY (NO 1073660) - ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT**
- The Committee considered a report of the Chief Grants Officer and Director of the City Bridge Trust which presented various matters intended to support the better administration and management of the charity. Specifically, decisions were sought on the Charity's reserves policy and funding strategy.

Members noted that authorisations in the sum of £10,000 and below would be delegated to the Director and Senior Leadership Team, in accordance with the scheme of delegations. There was some discussion about child poverty generally, noting how this affected life chances. The Director advised that a project was underway with the Children's Partnership, seeking to update their strategy. Members would receive a report on this early in the new year. It was also noted that the subsequent approval of the report on today's agenda would increase grant provision in the near future.

RESOLVED, that:

1. The revised reserves policy at Appendix B to the report be approved.
2. The revised and more strategic approach to funding and charitable activities for the charity, including the proposed expenditure of up to £300,000 of income funds over 2020/21 to 2025/26 (subject to ongoing review), as set out in the report, be approved.

3. Authority be delegated to the Director of Community and Children's Services, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, to develop and set the framework for implementation of the charity's new funding strategy.

11. STRONGER COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of a new Stronger Communities process, which would offer both small and main grants on a rolling basis from 1 October 2020. This would allow for the fund to respond to emerging needs in the community served by the fund.

RESOLVED, That :

1. The new Stronger Communities process be approved.
2. The revision to the criteria for the Stronger Communities Programme at Appendix 1, be noted.
3. The recent grants awarded from the Stronger Communities Fund at Appendix 2, be noted.

12. CHANGE OF NAME OF THE SIR JOHN CASS FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which updated Members on the change of name of the Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School to the Aldgate School. Members noted that the Instrument of Governance (approved by this Committee in August 2019) would need to be updated to reflect the change of name but would remain otherwise unchanged.

The Chairman, also a Member of the Tackling Racism Taskforce (TRT), confirmed that the TRT would be happy to receive this report and notice of its agreement, for information. Members also noted that the Governing Body had produced a report setting out a wider response to the issues and it was suggested that this be shared with the Education Board and the TRT. I HAVE CONTACTED THE CLERKS - Julie

RESOLVED, that – the draft Instrument of Governance (IoG), as varied, be agreed.

13. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) STRATEGY 2020-24

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the SEND Strategy for 2020-24.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

14. COMMUNITY CENTRE GOVERNANCE

This report was deferred to the next meeting.

At 12.45 and 1.10 pm Members agreed to extend standing orders in order to conclude the business on the agenda.

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

There were no questions

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

1. Members received an update on the City of London Corporation's Climate Strategy, which had been widely circulated to other committees ahead of its endorsement by the Policy and Resources Committee on 24 September 2020. It would be presented to the Court of Common Council for formal adoption on 9th October 2020.
2. Members noted the outcome of a successful bid to the MHCLG for cost recovery for the City's street population during the lockdown and this would be the subject of a report to the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee the following week. Members also noted that additional funding was being bid for drug and alcohol services which might need an urgent decision.

17. **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 Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act as follows:-

Item	Paragraph
19	3
20	2,3
21,22	3
23	-
24	2.3

18. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 202 be approved.

Matters arising

Planning approval had been granted for the Sydenham Hill development.

19. **RENEWAL OF FLAT ROOF COVERINGS (VARIOUS HOUSING BLOCKS OF FLATS) - GATEWAY 1-4**

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

20. **RIGHTS TO LIGHT COMPENSATION**

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

21. **CONTRACT VARIATION: E-SERVICES FOR PAN LONDON SEXUAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
22. **BRIDGEMASTERS' HOUSE PHASE 1 - GATEWAY 6 - OUTCOME REPORT**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the City Surveyor.
23. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.
24. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

The meeting ended at 1.30 pm

Chairman

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