

**COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**Friday, 29 January 2021**

**Present**

**Members:**

Randall Anderson (Chairman)  
George Abrahams  
Munsur Ali  
Matthew Bell  
Peter Bennett  
Mark Bostock  
Deputy Keith Bottomley  
Tijs Broeke  
Mary Durcan  
Helen Fentimen  
John Fletcher  
Marianne Fredericks  
Alderman David Graves  
Caroline Haines  
The Revd Stephen Haines  
Graeme Harrower  
Sheriff Christopher Hayward  
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark

Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen  
Alderman Bronek Masojada  
Deputy Catherine McGuinness  
Benjamin Murphy  
Dhruv Patel  
Susan Pearson  
William Pimlott  
Jason Pritchard  
Deputy Elizabeth Rogula  
James de Sausmarez  
Sir Michael Snyder  
Deputy Philip Woodhouse  
Dawn Wright

**In attendance for items 7 and 8:**

Larissa Howells – City Connections  
Kevin Jones – City Connections

**Officers:**

Andrew Carter	-	Director of Community and Children's Services
Sandra Husbands	-	Director of Public Health, City and Hackney
Chris Lovitt	-	Deputy Director of Public Health, City and Hackney
Carol Boswarthack	-	Head of Barbican and Community Libraries
Simon Cribbens	-	Community and Children's Services
Ellie Ward	-	Community and Children's Services
Paul Murtagh	-	Community and Children's Services
Jason Hayes	-	Community and Children's Services
Mike Kettle	-	Community and Children's Services
Gerald Mehrtens	-	Community and Children's Services
Paul Murtagh	-	Community and Children's Services
Chris Pelham	-	Community and Children's Services
Will Norman	-	Community and Children's Services
Chandni Tanna	-	Town Clerks, Communications Department
Julie Mayer	-	Town Clerks
Mark Jarvis	-	Chamberlains
Ola Obadara	-	City Surveyors
Julie Fittock	-	City Surveyors
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1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Deputy Joyce Nash, Henrika Priest and Ruby Sayed.

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

Member Susan Pearson had a dispensation to speak on general housing matters, which applied to agenda Item 12 (Golden Lane Area Lighting and Accessibility Gateway 1-4 Project Proposal & Options Appraisal). Member Pearson would not be voting on this item due to a potential application of Section 618 of the Housing Act, which applied uniquely to resident Members of the City of London Corporation, a repeal of which was currently being lobbied by the City's Remembrancer.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be approved.

**Matters arising:**

An unpaid carer would be attending the next meeting of the Covid Working Party and the Library was assisting with IT connection.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Committee received its outstanding actions list.

5. **TO ELECT A NEW MEMBER TO THE HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND ALMSHOUSES SUB COMMITTEE**

Being the only Member expressing a willingness to serve, it was RESOLVED, that – Caroline Haines be appointed to the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

6. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk in respect of the Annual Review of its Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED, that :

1. The Terms of Reference of the Committee (as set out at Appendix 1 to the report) be approved
2. The frequency of meetings remain unchanged.

7. **PRESENTATION FROM CITY CONNECTIONS**

Members received a presentation from City Connections in respect of maximising independence for all residents and workers. During the discussion and questions, the following points were noted:

- a) Given that most of the City's children and young people attend out-of-borough schools, City Connections take a partnership approach with Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets, who deliver young carer services via their youth provision and schools. Often young carers do not identify themselves as such and want to be with their peers and friends, which City Connections encourages. Since the start of the pandemic there had been more reliance on social services for referrals but there had been successful work with a couple of new young carers during this time. City Connections would also be refreshing its communications and promotions to prioritise young carers.
- b) City Connections agreed to check the timings of the Informal Carers Café on the website, which appeared to be missing. They had not been able to reach enough working carers to consult on preferred times for meetings. Some working carers are reluctant to come forward and there had been some allegations of perceived discrimination in some workplaces. Furthermore, the majority do not live in the City but City Connections are in a good place to reach them, once workers start returning to the City. Those living outside of the City might also be in receipt of local support.
- c) A lot of referrals come from the care navigators, working with hospital discharges. Carers and their families are often at a point of crisis if the hospital admission is unplanned. Referrals also come from Adult Social care and some are self-referrals. The care navigator is also based at the Neaman Practice 2, days a week, in order to pick up GP referrals. They also work with the social prescribing service delivered through Family Action, which is also based in the Neaman Practice.
- d) A number of mental health service providers have been invited to carers groups to give presentations. Tavistock have launched a Wellbeing Service in the City and they have sought views from carers as to how they would like to access services. The cost of mental health services can be a barrier for some carers, so the new City Wellbeing service was welcomed.
- e) Surveys are conducted quarterly throughout the engagement pathway and City Connections have been commissioned to deliver 4 basic outcomes; i.e.- personal safety, place in the community, independence and quality of life, and there are some secondary outcomes. Once the engagement ends, City Connections continue to check in with the client, in case of any changing circumstances. Survey results are reviewed by the Outcomes Board and with other Stakeholders; i.e. Adult Social Care and the Voluntary Sector. For example, telephone befriending came on stream as a result of consultation during the pandemic and digital support has strengthened.
- f) The next round of promotions will be more narrative based and reflective of true-life scenarios that potential service users can relate to. City Connections are fully aware that there are more carers in the City than they are aware of and will continue to try and reach them.

- g) Portsoken Members had been looking at producing Sylheti videos on 'WhatsApp' in order to overcome exclusions experienced by the Bengali population. Connections are aware of this work and welcomed a conversation with the Portsoken Member in order to take it further.

**8. SUPPORT TO INFORMAL CARERS**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which provided an update on the support provided to informal carers in the City of London, and was linked to the presentation at the previous agenda item. Members noted that some issues about the support provided to informal carers has been raised by an informal carer who lives in the City of London. The report also includes this feedback, with a response to each of the points raised.

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

- a) The Carers Strategy Implementation Group originally had members from Community and Children's Services and Public Health and were looking to to widen this to include carers' representatives and Healthwatch, who have been running a listening group.
- b) A Workshop in February would review the action plan in light of changes over the past year and emerging needs. The Workshop would also restart the implementation group, which had not been able to meet during the pandemic.
- c) A Winter Carers Support Grant is likely to come on stream shortly (funded by the CCG) It would offer Supermarket Vouchers to carers over the Winter months and will be administered by City Connections.
- d) PPE digital amazon vouchers were sent out at the beginning of the week, with an explanatory email and followed up with a phone call.
- e) A 'digital buddying' scheme provides IT support and reminders were due out today, in addition to the IT support being offered by the Library Service.
- f) The government Bi-annual survey of carers had been postponed to next year; evaluations and value for money were part of City Connections contract with the City of London Corporation, including the 4 outcomes referenced in 7(e) above.
- g) The Committee commended carers for their unpaid service and support for each other throughout the pandemic.
- h) Officers were in discussion with the contact centre in respect of streamlining the Red Badge scheme application process for carers.

RESOLVED, That – the report be noted.

9. **DRAFT COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2021/22**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which present the Headline Business Plan for the Department of Community and Children's Services for 2021/22.

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

- a) The Major Works Programme (MWP) will incorporate measures to reduce the City's carbon footprint. The Assistant Director and his team were working with the City Surveyor to identify opportunities for grant funding, as the MWP cannot extend beyond the budget. Furthermore, there would be a bid for additional funding from Climate Action Strategy, and this would be the subject of a further report to the Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> March, which would also consider the medium- and longer-term objectives. The Assistant Director reminded Members that the Sydenham Hill development had used heat pumps and not gas.
- b) In respect of the School's KPIs relating to good Ofsted ratings, and the impact of exclusions on academic achievement, the Director explained that the only School within the Committee's remit was the Aldgate School, with the rest falling under the Education Board. However, this suite of KPI's was being reviewed and likely to change this year.
- c) Performance is generally reported to Committee in the quarterly business plan reports. However, this had been difficult during the first 2 quarters of this year, due to the pandemic and services changing or being closed., Officers now had a more complete suite of performance indicators for quarter 3, which would be presented to the March Committee. Going forward, reporting would be more exception based, highlighting very strong performances or where a risk needs to be managed or approached differently.
- d) The Safeguarding and Housing and Almshouses Sub Committees received more narratives in their reports and drilled down into a lot of the detail behind the KPIs and benchmarking, with the headlines presented to the Grand Committee.

RESOLVED, that:

- i) The factors taken into consideration in compiling the Department of Community and Children's Services Business Plan be noted; and
- ii) The Departmental Business Plan for Community and Children's Services for 2021/22 be approved.

10. **DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES EXCLUDING HRA**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Community and Children's Services which presented budget estimates for the Department of Community & Children's Services for 2021/22.

The Director advised that the report presented efficiencies and savings in terms of value for money and contracting, whilst preserving front line services. However, the Committee noted that budgets were a lot more stringent this year, with less scope for responding to contingencies. The Committee also noted that they were being presented with a budget envelope, as set by the Resource Allocation Sub Committee. Whilst there was some element of choice, the size of the envelope cannot change and would form part of the 'budget book' presented to the March meeting of Court of Common Council. The Director stressed the likelihood of sudden changes required to demand led services, as had been the case over the past year, which would require further Committee approval. However, the City was in a strong position when compared to other London Boroughs.

RESOLVED, that:

- i) The Community and Children's Services Department's proposed revenue budget for 2021/22 (excluding HRA) be approved for submission to the Finance Committee.
- ii) The Community and Children's Services Department's proposed capital and supplementary revenue projects budgets for 2021/22 (excluding HRA) be approved for submission to the Finance Committee.
- iii) The Chamberlain, in consultation with the Director of Community and Children's Services, be authorised to revise these budgets to allow for any further implications arising from Corporate Projects, changes to the Cyclical Works Programme and realignment of budgets emanating from the new Target Operating Model.
- iv) Minor amendments for 2020/21 and 2021/22 budgets arising during budget setting be delegated to the Chamberlain.
- v) The factors taken into consideration in compiling the Community and Children's Services Department's Business Plan, including efficiency Measures be noted.

**11. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2021/22**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Community and Children's Services which presented the annual submission of the revenue and capital budgets overseen by the Committee.

The Committee noted the difficult position facing the HRA and that the estimates had assumed a level of support from City Cash grants, which would be considered when the report is presented to the Finance Committee in February, for scrutiny and agreement. The Chamberlain explained that, in the

Medium Term, the HRA needs to exist within its means, with costs contained within projected rental incomes. Additionally, the timing of the MWP would need to tie in with major income streams in order to help repay loan repayments.

RESOLVED, That:

- i) The provisional 2021/22 revenue budget be approved for submission to the Finance Committee.
- ii) The draft Capital budget be approved For submission to the Finance Committee
- iii) The Chamberlain, in consultation with the Director of Community and Children's Services, be authorised to revise these budgets to allow for further implications arising from departmental reorganisations and other reviews.

**12. GOLDEN LANE AREA LIGHTING AND ACCESSIBILITY GATEWAY 1-4 PROJECT PROPOSAL & OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of Lighting and Accessibility in the Golden Lane Area. The Committee welcomed a much-needed project and noted that the controls were part of the lighting replacement and would be included in the works.

RESOLVED, That:

1. That a budget of £15,000 be approved for internal staff costs in order to reach the next Gateway.
2. The project budget of £15,000 (excluding risk) be noted
3. The total estimated cost of the project at £500,000 (excluding risk) be noted and that release of funding is subject to the further approval of Resource Allocation Sub and Policy and Resources Committees.
4. Option 2 (upgrade existing external lighting provision to energy-efficient modern fittings) be approved to proceed to procurement.

**13. COVID-19 UPDATE**

The Deputy Director of Public Health for the City and Hackney provided the headline statistics for London and the City. During the discussion and questions, the following points were noted:

- a) There was some cautious good news in respect of falling infection rates but the new variant transmitted faster and might be connected to higher mortality rates. Furthermore, the impact on the NHS was still at high levels and this would continue for some weeks beyond the reduction in the number of new cases. The Committee noted an interactive map showing improvement since start of this month, but it would take some time to get back to the levels in the late Summer of 2020.

- b) The NHS's excellent work in progressing vaccinations was commended. The rate of vaccinations for the over 80s in London, at 64.4%, was slightly lower than the rest of the UK and anyone over 80 who hadn't been invited for a vaccination should contact their GP. Spare Pfizer vaccines are used at the end of the day, as it cannot be stored for long. These have been offered to primary care staff, rather than members of the community, as availability is very short notice.
- c) Work was underway in Hackney in terms of vaccine hesitancy amongst some ethnic groups. However, there had been some strong messaging from community leaders across all ethnicities and there were no cultural implications connected to the content of either vaccine. There would be more data emerging from the NHS, which would enable the team to look at individual ward uptakes. All forms of messaging would be used: i.e. Community Champions, Barbican Talk and the Whatsapp Groups in the East of the City, in order to empower communities in making good choices.
- d) There was some work underway with the East London Foundation Trust and Outreach Groups in respect of recognising rough sleepers as a vulnerable group, in terms of the vaccination waves. There was currently no directive from the NHS, and ultimately this would be a CCG decision, but they had asked Public Health for data. The NHS had also been reinforcing the message in that you do not need documentation to register with a GP and obtain a vaccination. Furthermore, the homeless population often have underlying health conditions that would put them in a clinically vulnerable categories and a great majority were now at the Youth Hostel or Lodge 2.
- e) Barts had been asking for NHS numbers to ensure that data on vaccinations was being reported back to GPs but the numbers were not required to receive the vaccination. The Director and officers agreed to seek clarity on this offline and report back to Members.
- f) When the CCG sends an invitation to receive a vaccination, an offer transport is made. The Healthwatch newsletter was circulated to Members this week, which includes Age Concern's offer for transport and taxi-cards can also be used. Furthermore, the GP Confederation were looking at offering home vaccinations

#### 14. **COVID-19 WORKING PARTY UPDATE**

The Chairman advised that this was progressing well and the Working Party had met twice since the last meeting of the Committee. It is expected to achieve its work plan over the course of its next 2 scheduled meetings.

#### 15. **IMPLEMENTATION OF LATERAL FLOW TESTING IN THE CITY OF LONDON**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of lateral flow testing for asymptomatic residents.



A Member expressed concern at the initial location of the asymptomatic test centre, given the availability of alternative suitable venues in the City. The Members also expressed that it had been located in a small sports hall, in a densely populated housing estate, resulting in extra footfall, with some people not wearing masks and asking residents for directions, potentially increasing the risk of transmission.

The Member reminded the Committee that issues arising from the City Corporation's earlier responses to the pandemic had led to the establishment of the Covid Working Party, and it was hoped that this would make a discernible change.

Another Member, whilst accepting some shortcomings in the location of the initial test centre, stressed there was positive feedback in that lateral flow testing had resulted in 7 positive results amongst the staff of Pryor Western, which had a significant impact in protecting other staff and pupils at the School.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

16. **BARBICAN AND GOLDEN LANE CONSERVATION AREA CHARACTER SUMMARY AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment which sought agreement of the draft Barbican and Golden Lane Conservation Area Character Summary and Management Strategy. The Committee noted that the Planning and Transportation Committee had also approved this report.

RESOLVED, that – the draft text of the Barbican and Golden Lane Conservation Area Character Summary and Management Strategy SPD, appended as Appendix A to this report, be approved for public consultation for 6 weeks from March 2021.

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

There were no questions.

18. **ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chairman had agreed to receive an item of urgent business and noted that a decision had already been taken under urgency provision by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the Policy and Resources Committee and Health and Wellbeing Board, subject to this Committee's approval.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of Pan London Commissioning Support. Members noted that the initial response to the Covid-19 pandemic in London had seen an unprecedented effort to accommodate those sleeping rough in the capital. To address the complex needs of this cohort, a pan-London Homeless Drug and Alcohol Service was commissioned to co-ordinate and provide support for substance misuse issues.

RESOLVED, THAT – an extension to the original remit, approved under Urgency on 9th October 2020, be approved in order to expand the In-Patient Detox provision, as part of a wider funding announcement by government. *NB - this supply would be linked to crime reduction and not specifically rough sleeping.*

19. **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.

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Para no</b>
20-26	3

20. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be approved.

21. **INTERIM ASSESSMENT CENTRE FOR ROUGH SLEEPERS: GATEWAY 1-5 AUTHORITY TO START WORK**

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

22. **LEASE FOR COVID-19 RELATED HOMELESS ACCOMMODATION**

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

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

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

24. **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk in respect of a decision on the Sydenham Hill Redevelopment, Lewisham, SE26 6ND taken under delegated authority.

25. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

26. **ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items

**The meeting ended 4.35 pm**

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Chairman

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