

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 11 January 2019

Minutes of the meeting held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Randall Anderson (Chairman)
George Abrahams
Munsur Ali
Tom Anderson
Matthew Bell
Peter Bennett
Mary Durcan
John Fletcher
Marianne Fredericks
Alderman John Garbutt
Alderman Prem Goyal OBE JP
Alderman David Graves
Caroline Haines

Graeme Harrower
Deputy Henry Jones
Angus Knowles-Cutler
Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Benjamin Murphy
Barbara Newman
Susan Pearson
William Pimlott
Jason Pritchard
James de Sausmarez
Ruby Sayed
Deputy Philip Woodhouse

Officers:

Andrew Carter	- Director of Community and Children's Services
Mike Kettle	- Community and Children's Services
Paul Murtagh	- Community and Children's Services
Chris Pelham	- Community and Children's Services
Simon Cribbens	- Community and Children's Services
Theresa Shortland	- Community and Children's Services
Mike Kettle	- Community and Children's Services
Gerald Mehrtens	- Community and Children's Services
Marcus Roberts	- Community and Children's Services
Mohamed Hussain	- Community and Children's Services
Mark Jarvis	- Community and Children's Services
Julie Mayer	- Community and Children's Services

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dhruv Patel (Deputy Chairman), Matthew Bell, Deputy, the Rev. Stephen Haines, Natasha Lloyd Owen, Deputy Joyce Nash, Henrika Priest, Laura Jorgensen and Matt Piper.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, subject to an amendment recording apologies for James De Sausmarez.

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

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk in respect of the annual review of the Committee's Terms of Reference. Whilst Members noted and agreed the amendments set out in the report, opinion was divided as to whether meetings should continue to take place on Fridays and, as a number of apologies had been received for this meeting, the Town Clerk agreed to email all Members of the Committee to canvass opinion. Members noted that, given the timescale, the next meeting would take place on the published date of Friday, 8th February 2019.

RESOLVED, That - the Terms of Reference of the Community and Children's Services Committee be amended to include:

1. An amendment to 4(b) Education – to include the nomination/appointment of Local Authority Governors; as appropriate.
2. An addition to 4(c) Sub Committees – to include the new Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Sub Committee.
3. The Committee continues to meet on the 2nd Friday of every month, for the time being, subject to the Town Clerk canvassing Members as to a preferred meeting day.

5. **TO APPOINT 4 MEMBERS TO THE EDUCATION CHARITY SUB COMMITTEE**

Being the only Members willing to serve, Caroline Haines and Randall Anderson be appointed to the Education Charity Sub Committee of the Education Board. Given that there were a number of apologies for this meeting, the Town Clerk agreed to email all Members to seek interest in the remaining two positions.

6. **TO APPOINT A GOVERNOR TO SIR JOHN CASS SCHOOL**

The Town Clerk was heard in respect of the above appointment and, as there were 2 expressions of interest for 1 position, a ballot would be necessary. The Chairman invited both nominees to speak in support of their nominations. Ahead of the ballot, the Head of Service (Education and Early Years) was heard and Members noted that the current terms of this appointment; Currently, there are two Governors appointed by the City, each for a period of 4 years. However, when the new Instrument of Governance is introduced, the City will only have one Governor on the reconstituted Board.

RESOLVED, that - Following the result of a ballot between Mr Munsur Ali and Deputy Gregory Jones, Mr Munsur Ali be appointed as the Governor to Sir John Cass Primary School.

7. **NEW HOUSING STRATEGY 2019-23**

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of a new Housing Strategy for 2019-23.

During the discussion on this item, Members made the following suggestions:

1. Final adoption of this Policy would fall within the remit of the Policy and Resources Committee and the Court of Common Council.
2. It should be made clear that London affordable rent was different from regular affordable rent.
3. Quality design guidelines should be evident.
4. Safe housing should extend beyond fire safety and into monitoring utilities etc.
5. Supporting vulnerable people with suitable adaptations important but it was also necessary to consider re-adaptations in time for new tenants.
6. Previously adopted policies in respect of social housing would be applied as far as possible but some schemes may require a mixed tenure. All social housing would be at London affordable rent.
7. Officers agreed to investigate Goldsmiths University Study and report back to Members. There were some concerns about residents visiting vulnerable neighbours if unaccompanied/unprepared.
8. Further to the question to the Court of Common Council in respect of Great Arthur House windows, the previous day, it was noted that there had been issues in the past in respect of both value for money and repair and maintenance and this should be recognised.
9. Members noted that all quotes in the report were from residents and the overall level of satisfaction was based on both these and the Annual Residents' Survey.

RESOLVED, that – Noting the comments set out above, the document '*Healthy Homes; Vibrant Communities – Our Housing Strategy for 2019–23*' be approved.

8. **BUSINESS PLAN - QUARTER 2 UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services. Members noted that all targets attributable to the City Corporation's care services had been met. In respect of Rough Sleepers, the interpretation of some of this data was complex; i.e. taking into account pan-London data and the Annual Count, and this was being explored in more detail by the Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Sub Committee.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

9. **REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS - 2019/20**

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services (CCS) in respect of the Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2019/20.

Members noted that the recent meeting of the Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Sub Committee had discussed whether it might be possible to set aside a funding pot for an assessment hub. The Director had since met with

the Chamberlain and been advised that this would not be possible and such a bid would require a business case for additional funding. The Chamberlain agreed to investigate a query in respect of Portsoken Pavilion's rent free period and report back to Members.

The Director advised that any new budget pressures and their implications would be reported to Committee. Members noted that the Department were working closely with other authorities and the Health Service so as not to compromise services. Members noted that most of the PIs gave them assurance but were reminded that the areas not meeting targets were within the NHS and not the Community and Children's Services (CCS) Adult Social Care Team. The Director agreed to bring a gap analysis to the March or April meeting of the Committee, highlighting where CCS officers were struggling to meet areas of need.

RESOLVED, that -

1. Having been reviewed to ensure that it reflects the Committee's objectives, the provisional 2019/20 Revenue Budget be approved for submission to the Finance Committee
2. Having been reviewed, the draft Capital Budget be approved
3. The Chamberlain be authorised to revise these budgets to allow for further implications arising from departmental reorganisations and other reviews, corporate projects and changes to the Additional Works Programme
4. Authority be delegated to the Chamberlain to make any minor budget changes for 2018/19 and 2019/20 as a result of the completion of the asset verification exercise.

10. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2019/20**

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

The Assistant Director advised that service charges varied across the City's Estates and the report reflected collection levels last year. Members asked for a further commentary which would provide evidence of efficient cost recovery. Members noted that Holloway Estate Window Replacement would be subject to a further report in respect of a revised programme. The Assistant Director agreed to check that all invoices had been settled in-year and reflected in the correct budget, particularly for schemes, such as the Golden Lane Community Centre.

RESOLVED, That:

1. Having been reviewed to ensure that it reflects the Committee's objectives, the provisional 2019/20 revenue budget be approved for submission to the Finance Committee.

2. Having been reviewed, the draft capital budget be approved.
3. The Chamberlain be authorised to revise these budgets to allow for further implications arising from departmental reorganisations and other reviews.

11. **CHILDREN CENTRE SERVICES - REVIEW 2018**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the Children Centre Services Review 2018.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

12. **OFSTED FOCUS VISIT ON CARE LEAVERS**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services and were very pleased at this excellent outcome. Members noted that the forthcoming Safeguarding Sub Committee would consider this report in more detail, along with a further report on transfer from care schemes into training and careers.

Whilst it was noted that all the City Corporation's young people were in education or training via pathway plans, there had been a recommendation about emphasising the voice of the young people. Therefore, officers were working with the virtual Head Teacher and introducing corporate champions for young people in care as they transition. In future, pathway plans would be written in a style which reflects their voice, rather than being written for them.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

13. **CRESCENT HOUSE/CULLUM WELCH HOUSE HEATING REPLACEMENT**

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of Crescent House/Cullum Welch House Heating replacement.

Officers confirmed that the greater the number of leaseholders who choose to opt-in to the communal heating scheme, the greater the financial benefit would be from economies of scale. Officers continue to meet with planners to satisfy the listed building implications. Members noted that leaseholders could retain their existing individual heating systems but, could face real problems of complying with listed building consent when a new system is required. Residents had been consulted extensively on the difficulties associated with maintaining the existing system and the benefits of the new technology.

RESOLVED, that :

1. The contents of this report be noted.
2. Option 2, as set out in the report for communal heating, be approved.
3. The total estimated cost of £3,146,321 (including expenditure to date) be noted.
4. The expenditure to date of £18,207 (+VAT) be noted.

5. The additional budget of £132,000 needed to reach Gateway 5 be approved
6. The costed risk of £215,000 be noted. (NB. This is not included in the total estimated cost but is intended as a contingency and will only be drawn down if required)

14. **AVONDALE SQUARE WINDOWS OVERHAUL**

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the Avondale Square Windows overhaul. The Chairman agreed to accept a tabled note for Members, giving a further explanation in respect of the increased costs and some further general observations. Members noted the costed risk of £42,400 to be added to the works costs, which represented 20% of Pelling's estimate of £212,000, to cover likely additional windows works, resulting in a total requested works cost of £254,400.

Whilst there was a consensus to move forward urgently on this project, the Chairman suggested, and Members agreed, that approval of the 20% of Pelling's estimate, as set out above, be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee. Members noted this report would also be considered by the Projects Sub Committee on 18th January 2019.

RESOLVED, that:

1. The reasons for the increase in estimated project costs from £161,437.50 to £279,840 be noted.
2. The increased works cost of £110,900 from the original works estimate of £143,500 to £254,400 be noted.
3. Metwin Ltd be appointed to carry out the window overhaul works at Avondale Square Estate.
4. The increased total project cost from £161,437.50 to £237,440, which includes staff costs of £25,440 be approved.
5. Approval of the costed risk for likely additional window works of £42,400, if required, be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee

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

A Member asked a question in respect of Aldgate Community Events (ACE). Eight weeks ago, the Member had sent an email to the address provided on their website with a series of questions. The organisation had acknowledged receipt of the questions but had not responded. Members also noted that ACE's website was offline as the subscription had expired but it would be on-line again soon. Officers advised that they were preparing a paper, for consideration by Community and Children's Services Committee, in relation to the support

offered to community groups and the impact and outcomes sought, in-line with the Corporate Plan. ACE had received funding via the Stronger Communities Grant Scheme; all applications were assessed against set criteria and awards made accordingly. Members noted that, at times of potential difficulty, it could be that community groups required more support and monitoring to ensure they were meeting the core objectives of any funding or provision.

Some Members had attended ACE events, which had been very successful in empowering local communities, and their work with the local churches and schools was commended. The Member who asked the question stressed that the value of their work was not being challenged; the questions asked simply reflected due diligence and should, therefore, be responded to in a timely manner.

A Member asked a question about the Head Lease at Tudor Rose Court, a City of London freehold property. The Director agreed to provide a report to the next meeting of the Committee.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The Chairman agreed to change the running order of the agenda, in order to take Agenda Item 19 (Brexit Contingencies) in the public part of the agenda.

1. Brexit Contingencies

The Director of Community and Children's Services delivered a presentation setting out the Department's contingency plans in respect of the possibility of a 'No Deal' Brexit. Members noted that this would be a standing item on all Service Committee Agendas, for the time being.

2. Great Arthur House

The Chairman advised on the outcome of the recent decision of the First Tier Tribunal Property Chamber in respect of Great Arthur House. Members noted that the Tribunal had found that the City Corporation's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) should not be charging long lessees for the curtain walling work. Members noted that Counsel's opinion would be sought on whether to appeal the decision as, the cost to the HRA was likely to be around £4m. The City Corporation had 28 days from this judgement to make an Appeal and, therefore, would not be taking further action on billing at this stage and those who had paid would be refunded, if the decision was not appealed.

17. 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 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item no	Para no
21-23	3

18. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
RESOLVED, that - the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2018 be approved.
19. **BREXIT CONTINGENCIES**
This item was taken as part of the public agenda.
20. **ENGAGING WITH SUPPLIERS TO ENSURE PROJECTS YIELD MORE RESPONSES WHEN TENDERING**
This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.
21. **WINDSOR HOUSE**
Members considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
22. **YORK WAY ESTATE**
Members considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
23. **HOUSING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPGRADE**
Members considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
24. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions
25. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
There were no items.

The meeting ended at 1.30pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Julie Mayer – 0207 3321410
Julie.mayer@cityoflondon.gov.uk