

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 12 July 2019

Minutes of the meeting held at Guildhall at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Randall Anderson (Chairman)
Ruby Sayed (Deputy Chairman)
Munsur Ali
Matthew Bell
Mary Durcan
John Fletcher
Marianne Fredericks
Alderman John Garbutt
Alderman Prem Goyal
Alderman David Graves
Graeme Harrower

Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Benjamin Murphy
Deputy Joyce Nash
Barbara Newman
Susan Pearson
Henrika Priest
Jason Pritchard

Officers:

Andrew Carter	- Director of Community & Children's Services
Simon Cribbens	- Community & Children's Services
Anne Bamford	- Community & Children's Services
Claire Giraud	- Community & Children's Services
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's
Louise Said	- Chamberlain's
Goshe Munir	- Chamberlain's
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerk's
Gerald Mehrtens	- Community & Children's Services
Paul Murtagh	- Community & Children's Services
Chris Pelham	- Community & Children's Services
Kristina Drake	- Town Clerk's (Communications Dept)
Dan Burningham (for item 9)	- NHS (City and Hackney)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Peter Bennett, Dhruv Patel, Natasha Lloyd-Owen, William Pimlott, James de Sausmarez, Deputy Philip Woodhouse, Laura Jorgensen and Matt Piper.

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

Susan Pearson indicated that she might have a disclosable pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 13b (Response to Wardmote Resolution in respect of Golden Lane Estate). Ms Pearson had a general dispensation to speak and had applied for a general dispensation twice, in the last three weeks, that would cover voting on this matter. Ms Pearson felt that this was relevant, because she would be proposing a motion. Ms Pearson said that her second application had

specifically referred to this item, but five days since making it, she had received neither a grant nor a refusal of a dispensation; contrary to Paragraph 9 of the City of London Corporation's Dispensations Policy. Ms Pearson said that she had received an email from the City Solicitor's office that morning, advising that it was for her to decide whether to vote. Ms Pearson considered that if she did vote, she would be at risk of being referred to the police for prosecution; i.e. - for voting either without a dispensation or in contravention of section 618 of the Housing Act 1985.

Benjamin Murphy declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 13b (Response to a Wardmote Resolution) in respect of Golden Lane Estate by virtue of being a Director of UBS Investment Bank, which has a corporate tenancy at 1 Golden Lane.

Subsequently, item 13(b) was for information only, with no Motion and therefore was not voted on.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2019 be approved as a correct record.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Members received the Committee's Outstanding Actions List, noting those items which either had been, or would be, discharged on either this or future agendas. The Chairman asked for target dates to be included wherever possible and Members noted the following updates:

1. Social Wellbeing research: Presentation by Researcher – September 2019
2. Provision of free school meals for children in reception and years 1 and 7 – November 2019
3. Sydenham Hill – this report had scheduled for today's agenda but deferred to September 2019
4. Draft Alcohol Strategy: Business Engagement Member Briefing – the Director had met with the Chairman of Health and Wellbeing Board to take this forward after recess.

5. **UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE SUB COMMITTEES**

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

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee - had met on 1st July and commissioned an Options Appraisal to assess new interventions and approaches to rough sleeping in the City of London. There had been a very well attended Member Breakfast Briefing on 18th June 2019 and the Draft Homelessness Strategy for 2019-23 was on today's agenda. Members had also met with representatives from Central Government to discuss the government's review of homelessness legislation including the Vagrancy Act.

Safeguarding Sub Committee - had not met since the last meeting of the Community and Children's Services Committee and their next meeting was scheduled for 3rd October 2019.

Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee - had not met since the last meeting of the Community and Children's Services Committee and their next meeting was scheduled for 22nd July 2019.

6. **IMPACT OF BREXIT**

The Director of Community and Children's Services advised that more detail was likely to emerge by September's Committee and Members noted the increasing likelihood of a No-Deal Brexit.

7. **DRAFT HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2019-23**

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which presented the City of London Corporation's Draft Homelessness Strategy (2019-23) for approval. During the discussion and questions on this item the following points were noted:

- The Health and Wellbeing Board and Homelessness Sub Committee had considered the draft strategy. The Health and Wellbeing Board asked for activities and success measures in relation to health to be strengthened. Members noted that, once the Strategy had been approved, an action plan would sit beneath it, detailing resources and timescales.
- In respect of clients with no recourse to public funds, Members noted that it was illegal to refuse assistance without undertaking a human rights assessment. Members noted the challenges in supporting those without recourse to public funds, but this was a national problem and did not affect a large number of the City's homeless clients.
- Members asked for the Strategy to highlight the impact on residents from long term rough sleeping in residential areas.

RESOLVED, That – the draft Homelessness Strategy for 2019-23 be approved, as set out in the report and noting the above comments.

8. **ADULT SKILLS AND EDUCATION SERVICE UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which provided an update on the Adult Skills and Education Service, including key findings from a recent independent review of the service, its progress towards delivering the outcomes in the Skills Strategy and preparation for upcoming national policy developments. Members noted there was currently some uncertainty in respect of funding, as some would be London-wide and some available on completion.

Two Members commented on the improved offer of classes, given that some residents' previous experiences in an educational environment might not have been positive. Members asked for their thanks to be conveyed to Barbara Hamilton and her team.

Members noted that some courses had been consolidated, in response to demand, and more were being run in-house, rather than by external providers. Offices advised that the past year had been one of transition and funding uncertainty but the direction of travel was for further expansion and active marketing.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

9. DRAFT CITY AND HACKNEY MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which presented a draft City and Hackney Mental Health Strategy for 2019-23 and an impact assessment for the 2015-18 Strategy.

During the discussion and questions the following points were noted:

- The growing awareness of mental ill health in the workforce and its impact on individuals and businesses. The City's 'Business Healthy' programme, suicide prevention training and campaigns, and forthcoming City Mental Health Centre are examples of how the City is tackling this issue.
- At the Neaman Practice, Patients are able self-refer for talking therapy for anxiety and depression, usually within 6 weeks. If Members became aware of this taking longer, they were advised to contact Dan.Burningham@nhs.net at the NHS (City and Hackney). For more complex mental health requirements, each neighbourhood has access to specialists.
- A detailed action plan would support the Strategy and include the specific initiatives led by and delivered in the City.

RESOLVED, that:

1. The impact of the City and Hackney Mental Health Strategy for 2015-18 be noted.
2. Subject to the comments noted above, final approval of the City and Hackney Mental Health Strategy for 2019-23 be delegated to the Integrated Commissioning Sub Committee.

10. REVENUE OUTTURN 2018-19 - COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE (CITY FUND)

Members received a report of the Chamberlain and Director of Community and Children's Services which compared the 2018/19 Revenue Outturn, for the non-Housing Revenue Account (HR) services overseen by the Committee, with the final agreed budget for the year. Members were advised that they would receive a presentation on the budget at the September Committee, ahead of any implications arising from the Fundamental Review and the estimates report, which would be presented to them in November.

Members also noted that the Director of Community and Children's Services proposal to carry forward £94,000 to 2019/20 had not been agreed by the Chamberlain, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Resource Allocation Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED, that - The Revenue Outturn report for 2018/19 be noted.

11. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) OUTTURN 2018-19

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, which compared the outturn for the HRA in 2018/19 with the final agreed budget for the year.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

12. PLEDGE OF SUPPORT FOR THE 'OUR TURN' CAMPAIGN

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which sought a pledge of support in relation to the 'Our Turn' Campaign, which sought to re-settle 10,000 additional asylum-seeking and refugee children each year, over ten years, if central government were to create a new fully funded scheme. The report noted that several London boroughs had made the pledge. Members noted that, if they were minded to support this pledge, then it would be recommended to the Policy and Resources Committee for final approval.

Members were advised that this matter had been the subject of considerable debate at the Leaders' Committee at London Councils, which had expressed a view that London had already taken an unfair share in the support of Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers, particularly care beyond 18 years. Whilst having every sympathy for the plight of this group, there was a consensus, from the London Council's Leaders Committee, that the current system was flawed and they were promoting alternative, positive steps such as lobbying for changes to ensure fair distribution and adequate resources. The Leaders' Committee were also concerned that the pledges might detract from this objective. A Member felt it was important that the Committee did not use this as a gesture but remained in line with London Councils and other local authorities.

There was a general consensus from the Members of Community and Children's Services that the lobbying and legal action should continue, alongside the pledge, and they should not wait until a flawed system was remedied. Furthermore, there was a view expressed that this gesture was an effective method of lobbying for more funding by signalling a willingness to manage the welcome of children that could come under the program and Members were concerned about the wider implications of not assisting vulnerable groups. Members also discussed the City Corporation's success stories in integrating Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers.

On being put to the vote, whereby 14 voted for, 3 against and 1 abstention it was RESOLVED, that:

1. The Community and Children's Services Committee pledge to resettle five additional asylum-seeking and refugee children each year, for ten years, as part of a fully funded government scheme, as proposed by the Our Turn Campaign.
2. The Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to approve the above Pledge, in line with those already made by London local authorities.

13. RESPONSES TO RESOLUTIONS FROM WARDMOTES

Members considered two reports of the Director of Community and Children's Services which addressed the recent Wardmote Resolutions concerning Rough Sleeping and Homelessness and the Golden Lane Estate.

- 13 (a) In respect of the responses re Homelessness and Rough Sleeping,** Members noted that this report had also been to the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee and were content for it to be communicated to the Aldermen of the various Wards.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

- 13(b) In respect of the responses re the Golden Lane Estate,** Members agreed that the Director of Community and Children's Services be asked to investigate the options, costs and impediments in relation to creating a more 'private' estate, and the cost and implications of converting the major walkways (through the estate) into public pedestrian highways adopted and maintained by the highways department. Members felt that this would enable the residents of the estate to make a reasoned choice on the way non-resident pedestrians were able to use the estate. In respect of the response provided in this report, Members queried the Department of the Built Environment's estimate of £4.5m, required to bring the walkways/pavements from the private to public realm. There was a further suggestion the recent Public Realm Study be revisited.

Members asked for the current response to be revisited in order to address the queries set out above and a further report presented to the September meeting of the Community and Children's Services Committee

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

14. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN

Members received a report of the Town Clerk in respect of two decisions taken under urgency by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee, and in accordance with Standard Order No 41, as follows:

Terms of Reference of the Integrated Commissioning Board

Action taken:

The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee agreed the updated Terms of Reference for the Integrated Commissioning Board, which included the Integrated Commissioning Sub-Committee.

City Mental Health Centre

Action Taken

The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee approved:

1. 7 consultation rooms, 2 toilets (one wheelchair accessible), kitchen and staff room.
2. A budget of £59,690 to reach the next Gateway and noted;
 - a) A revised project budget of £71,440
 - b) A total estimated cost of the project at 381,440 (exc. risk)

Members noted that the City Corporation had chosen the organisation; Tavistock Relationships, as the provider for the City Mental Health Centre which would open in the Spring of 2020.

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

A Member asked a question on behalf of residents of the flats in Bowater House, who felt that the Taylor Wimpey Denizen development had taken much their daylight and sunlight. The Member suggested that, under Rights of Light Legislation, residents might be due compensation from the Developer. The Director was asked what action the City Corporation had taken, as Freeholder of the building, to assist long term tenants and leaseholders in claiming this compensation.

Members noted that the City Solicitor had advised that it would be inappropriate for the City Corporation to encourage residents to take action but they could be advised to seek independent legal advice.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items.

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 paragraph 3, of Part 1 (Schedule 12A) of the Local Government Act.

Item No	Para No(s)
18	3 and 4
19, 20	3

18. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2019 be approved.

19. **WAIVER REPORT**

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

20. **AVONDALE SQUARE WINDOW OVERHAUL**

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

21. **HOUSING DELIVERY PROGRAMME: PROVISION OF SOCIAL HOUSING ON THE SYDENHAM HILL ESTATE, LEWISHAM SE26 6ND - TO FOLLOW**

This report was deferred.

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

There were no questions.

23. **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 1.20 pm

Chairman

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