

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 13 September 2019

Minutes of the meeting held at Guildhall at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Randall Anderson (Chairman)	Deputy Joyce Nash
Ruby Sayed (Deputy Chairman)	Barbara Newman
Munsur Ali	Dhruv Patel
Rehana Ameer	William Pimlott
Matthew Bell	Jason Pritchard
Peter Bennett	James de Sausmarez
Mary Durcan	Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Alderman John Garbutt	
Alderman Prem Goyal	
Alderman David Graves	
Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen	

Officers:

Andrew Carter	- Director, Community and Children's Services
Gerald Mehrtens	- Community & Children's Services
Chris Pelham	- Community and Children's Services
Simon Cribbens	- Community and Children's Services
Liam Gillespie	- Community and Children's Services
Carol Boswarthack	- Community and Children's Services
Jason Hayes	- Community and Children's Services
Michael Gwyther-Jones	- Community and Children's Services
Lochlan McDonald	- Community and Children's Services
Ellie Ward	- Community and Children's Services
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlains
Louise Said	- Chamberlains
Steven Chandler	- City Surveyors
Carl Locsin	- Communications Team, Town Clerks
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerks

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Catherine McGuinness, Graeme Harrower, Marianne Fredericks, Deputy the Rev. Stephen Haines, Susan Pearson, Henrika Priest, Laura Jorgensen and Matt Piper.

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

Mr John Fletcher and Alderman Prem Goyal declared general, non-pecuniary interests in respect of agenda item 8 (Stronger Communities Grants Programme) by virtue of their membership of the Portsoken Activities Group and the Portsoken Ward Club.

Mr Munsur Ali declared a general, non-pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 9 (Reconstitution of the Governing Body of Sir John Cass Foundation Primary School) as his son is a pupil At the Sir John Cass Nursery School

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, That – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 12 July 2019 be approved, subject to an amendment showing Rehana Ameer as having been present.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Members noted the Committee's outstanding actions list and those items which appeared on today's agenda or were scheduled for future meetings.

In respect of Business Engagement, the Director and Chairmen of Community and Children's Services and the Health and Wellbeing Board had discussed content and would arrange a date for a Members' Breakfast Briefing.

5. **RESPONSES TO RESOLUTIONS FROM WARDMOTES: GOLDEN LANE ESTATE**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, which sought to address a Wardmote Resolution concerning the Golden Lane Estate. Members noted an options table, for which there was currently no funding available. The Chairman asked Members to consider this response and, if satisfied, forward a response and action plan to the Ward Mote.

Members carefully considered the options set out in the report. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Whilst accepting the need for some expenditure, Members accepted that this might be to the detriment of other projects, particularly in terms of the Fundamental Review. Therefore, officers would need a helpful steer as to what could reasonably be taken forward.
- Officers were asked to liaise with Golden Lane residents as to the shape and form of consultation, being mindful of budgetary issues. Officers had only recently become aware that residents had conducted their own consultation.
- Whether it would it be possible to undertake a fact finding exercise within the existing budget.

- Officers were asked to speak to the Culture Mile Team and the Department of the Built Environment about the footfall study conducted for Crossrail.
- Whether the cost of the Gates option was somewhat excessive and could a simple inventory be taken?
- Could the application for the adoption of the public pedestrian highways, by the Highways Department, be taken forward at a relatively low cost.

RESOLVED, That – that the approach, as set out in the report, be agreed and communicated to the Wardmote, along with the comments from this meeting.

6. **PRESENTATION: NHS LONG TERM PLAN**

During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Officers were working to minimise the risk of the City and Hackney programme becoming 'lost' in terms of the wider North East London System. However, a wider system includes Bart's Healthcare and Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), which registers some City of London residents at its GP Practices.
- Members felt that it was unacceptable to expect vulnerable residents, who might not have access to on-line appointment systems, to wait outside GP surgeries to make appointments.
- In respect of an IT failure last week, the officers agreed to provide a response from the Neaman Practice. Members noted that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board met regularly with the Senior Partner at the Neaman to discuss patients' comments and complaints.

In concluding, the Chairman and Members thanked officers for a helpful presentation and noted the deadline of 27th September 2019 for comments. Members were invited to email officers outside of the meeting.

7. **BREXIT PLANNING**

The Director of Community and Children's Services was heard in respect of Brexit Planning, particularly in preparation for a 'No Deal'. Members noted that the Director continued to attend weekly contingency planning meetings with other City Corporation Chief Officers and had been working on an action plan with colleagues across London, national and government bodies in respect of care services and schools. The Government's advice discouraging the stockpiling of food and medical supplies remained. Members noted that none of our looked after young people were captured by the EU settlement scheme.

8. **STRONGER COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME**

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the last grant funding round of the Stronger Communities Programme, which closed on 24 May 2019. Members noted a slight amendment, as set out in paragraphs 5 - 9 of the report. So as not to affect the programme timing, officers asked for authority to be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee, in order agree the exact wording.

During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- There was some dissatisfaction expressed in terms of the complexity of the process, particularly for small community groups, and the length of time taken to reach a decision. Members felt this was evidenced by the under-utilisation of the scheme.
- The scheme should be advertised more widely, particularly at Golden Lane Resident Association Meetings.
- Applicants were given feedback on rejected applications. In many cases, this was due to the proposal not being City focussed.
- Members noted a proposal to introduce a rolling programme, to be agreed under delegated authority for small grants, which would be explored in more detail in a report to the November Committee. Officers agreed to take the above comments back to the City Bridge Trust Team.

RESOLVED, That:

1. The changes to the Stronger Communities eligibility criteria, as set out in the report, be approved, with the final wording of the amendment delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee
2. The grants approved by Stronger Communities funding, as set out in the report, be endorsed.

9. **RECONSTITUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF SIR JOHN CASS FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL.**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, which had been approved under urgency during the Summer recess. Members noted that the Secretary of State for Education had issued directions dated 15 July 2019 under Section 498 (1) of the Education Act 1996. The City of London Corporation, in exercising its functions as a local authority in the City of London, was directed to make the Instrument of Governance by 9 August 2019. The decision was taken under urgency provision as the Committee was not due to meet again until 13 September 2019.

Action Taken

The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee made the Instrument of Government, as set out in the form at Appendix 3 to this Report, as directed by the Secretary of State for Education.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

10. **TO ELECT A LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR TO THE SIR JOHN CASS'S FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Being the only Member willing to serve, Mr Munsur Ali was appointed as Governor to the Sir John Cass Foundation Primary School, for a term expiring in 2022.

11. **NEW PORTSOKEN COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, which provided an update on a new community centre which would replace the existing Portsoken Health and Community Centre (the Green Box) as part of the Minorities Development in Aldgate.

In response to a question, Members noted that a double door would be considered. The Head of Service also advised that, whilst the community centres managed by the City's libraries did not operate under the same terms and conditions as those managed by Housing, they have a close working relationship, which has strengthened since the Libraries moved from the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee to Community and Children's Services and plan to build on this in the future. Furthermore, the Chairman had asked for assurance of robust digital booking systems for the rooms in the City's libraries and Community Centres.

RESOLVED, That – the report be noted.

12. **FIRE SAFETY UPDATE - HRA PROPERTIES**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which provided an update on progress made in relation to fire safety matters, since the last update report in March 2019.

Members noted that the City Corporation is committed to providing 60 minute rated fire doors, as a standard across all of the estates, and the doors had been tested with a maximum burn time of 75 minutes. Where this would not be possible, i.e. the block has restriction such as a listed status, there would be a minimum rating of 30 minutes. with the expectation that the door would be tested to a maximum burn time of 45 minutes.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

13. HOUSING DELIVERY PROGRAMME - RESIDENT CONSULTATION UPDATE

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which provided an update on progress made consulting with residents and stakeholders on proposals for new homes on the Sydenham Hill, Sumner Buildings, Avondale Square Estate, Windsor House Estate and York Way Estate. Sydenham Hill is the most advanced and consultations will come to a close shortly. The next most advanced is the consultation on Windsor Estate. Windsor residents were aware that there might be funding restrictions and Members noted that regeneration was essential to building more units and attracting GLA funding. Officers advised that more detail would emerge in future reports and Members were reminded that some decisions would be beyond the remit of the Community and Children's Services Committee. Members noted that a bespoke local lettings policy would be developed for each estate. A Tenant Charter would also be developed..

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

14. RECOMMISSIONING OF THE INTEGRATED DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICE

Members received a joint report of the Director of Public Health and Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the recommissioning of the Integrated Drug and Alcohol Service. Members noted a non-public appendix at agenda item 19.

RESOLVED, that – the following be noted:

- Hackney Council will commission an integrated adult drug and alcohol treatment system across the London Borough of Hackney (LBH) and the City of London Corporation (CoL), replacing the current separate commissioning arrangements.
- The CoL's annual contribution towards the integrated service will be paid from the Public Health Grant.
- The proposed contract length.

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

In response to a question about the timing of Committee meetings, a Member suggested that early evening meetings, commencing around 6.30pm, would be more inclusive for working Members and residents wishing to attend. Members felt that as this would also impact on officers, they too should be consulted. The Chairman advised that he had discussed this matter with the Town Clerk and, whilst it would be feasible, Members should be surveyed in the first instance to see if there was an appetite for such a change, to be trialled as a pilot by the Community and Children's Services Committee.

Some Members expressed that they would oppose such a pilot. On being put to a vote, 9 voted for and 6 against holding a survey of all Members of the Court but it was agreed that Members of the Committee should be surveyed. In the event of a majority vote in favour, the Town Clerk would bring a short report to the next meeting of the Committee, exploring the implications.

In response to a question in respect of recent publicity about accommodation for homeless families, Members would receive a report at the next committee, providing a breakdown of temporary accommodation available and currently in use.

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
There were no items.

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

Item no	para no
18-25	3

18. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
RESOLVED, That – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2019 be approved.

19. **RECOMMISSIONING OF THE INTEGRATED DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICE**
Members received a non-public appendix relating to agenda item 14.

20. **TRANSFER OF FUNDS OF THE SIGNOR FAVALE'S MARRIAGE PORTIONS CHARITY (REG NO 206949) TO THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION RELIEF OF POVERTY CHARITY (REG NO 1073660)**
Members considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

21. **APPROVED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL FOR DAYTIME MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS**
Members considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

22. **YORK WAY ESTATE COMMUNAL HEATING REPLACEMENT: GATEWAY 5**
Members considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

23. **MIDDLESEX STREET COMMUNAL HEATING REPLACEMENT - GATEWAY 5**
Members considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

24. NON-PUBLIC 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

25.1 Gateway 3 Issue - Holloway Estate, Islington Arts Factory (IAF)

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

The meeting ended at 12.50 pm

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Julie Mayer tel. no. 020 7332 1410
julie.mayer@cityoflondon.gov.uk**