

## **COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Friday, 7 February 2020**

Minutes of the meeting of the meeting held at Guildhall at 11 am

### **Present**

#### **Members:**

Randall Anderson (Chairman)  
Ruby Sayed (Deputy Chairman)  
George Abrahams  
Rehana Ameer  
Matthew Bell  
Peter Bennett  
Mary Durcan  
John Fletcher  
Helen Fentimen

Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen  
Deputy Joyce Nash  
Dhruv Patel  
Susan Pearson  
William Pimlott  
Henrika Priest  
Jason Pritchard

#### **Officers:**

Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's Department
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerk's Department
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's, Communications
Jack Joslin	- Town Clerk's, Central Grants
Sandra Husbands	- Director of Public Health
Andrew Carter	- Director of Community and Children's Services
Gerald Mehrtens	- Community & Children's Services
Paul Murtagh	- Community & Children's Services Department
Chris Pelham	- Community and Children's Services
Simon Cribbens	- Community and Children's Services
Carol Boswarthack	- Community and Children's Services
Sarah Townsend	- Community and Children's Services
Jacqueline Whitmore	- Community and Children's Services

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Graeme Harrower, Benjamin Murphy, Marianne Fredericks, Alderman John Garbutt, Caroline Haines, Laura Jorgensen and James de Sausmarez.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019 be agreed, subject to an amendment recording Rehana Ameer's apologies.

**Matters arising**

1. In respect of Windsor House consultation exercise, officers reported a positive outcome so far to date. Residents had been asked to vote on various scenarios and the consultation would conclude next week.
2. In respect of the Housing Delivery Programme, Members noted that a progress meeting had been scheduled with the Members of the Working Party where, the current position would be outlined along with the options.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Members received the Committee's Outstanding Actions list.

1. In respect of the outstanding amber and red internal audit recommendations, the Director reported that they had arisen from two audits on interrelated issues. They had now been resolved and were awaiting sign off by the Internal Audit Team. Members noted that the Internal Audit Team were considering reviewing their own internal procedures to be less procedural and more outcome focussed.
2. The Fire Safety Update report, to be presented to Members of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee in March, would include the outcome of fire door testing.

5. **CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION ALMSHOUSES**

Members received a presentation from the Sheltered Housing Manager in respect of the City of London and Gresham Almshouses. During the discussion and questions, the following points were noted:

- The timing of the daily 'check-in' control buttons were set in consultation with the residents on each estate. The resident would be visited within 20 minutes of the agreed time, if they have not checked in by then. Some residents preferred a daily visit and more visits were scheduled if a resident had been unwell or recently discharged from hospital. The Contact Centre operated overnight and, when staff were not on site, they updated staff at 8am every morning.
- CCTV was used discretely for any residents causing concern on estates. Video door bells had been used in the past but there were no current requirements. They were only visible at the immediate door entrance and were subject to Data Protection.
- Some residents had dedicated carers and if they were to develop severe mental health issues, they would be referred for an alternative type of care facility, as the Almshouses offered sheltered homes, with minimal

support, for independent living. The Almshouses residents, and all those living in sheltered housing out of the City, paid their Council Tax to Islington, Lambeth or Southwark Councils. These boroughs were therefore responsible for their care, including mental health referrals. Members were reminded that sheltered housing tenancies in Housing Revenue Account (HRA) properties were secured, whereas residents of the Almshouses were beneficiaries of a Charity and their tenure was slightly different.

- Tudor Rose Court has 19 tenants that were nominated by the Corporation however, they are tenants of Hanover and, they are bound by Hanover's tenancy agreement.

In concluding, there was some discussion about the ageing population generally and whether the City's future provision was adequate. The Director advised that this matter would be covered in a future report to the Committee on Adult Social Care. The Chairman and Members thanked the Sheltered Housing Manager for this presentation and commended the staff at the City of London Almshouses.

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

The Chairman asked for this report to be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

Member discussed last year's trial when three meetings had taken place on a different day of the week to Fridays. The Chairman was keen to do this again in 2020/21, provided alternative rooms were available. Members also discussed the recent poll seeking their views as to whether to hold Committee meetings in the evening; when the majority voted to keep daytime meetings. Some Members felt that this matter should be revisited, in light of the Diversity Charter. The Chairman reminded Members that they had all been invited to contribute to the Governance Review, and this was the most appropriate forum to express views on the scheduling of meetings.

There was further discussion about the fairly high level of apologies generally for this Committee and whether this might be due to the number of working Members. Some Members suggested a trial of two evening meetings during 20/21 to see if this reduced the number of apologies. Furthermore, as this was probably the most community facing Committee in the City of London Corporation, evening meetings might be more convenient for working residents.

There was a view expressed in that, as there had already been a Member poll on evening meetings, it should not be revisited at this time. There was a further suggestion about live streaming of meetings, and Members noted that this too could be included in their contributions to the Governance Review. Members were mindful of officers' Terms and Conditions of Employment and the impact on local risk budgets in respect of overtime payments, and noted that these factors would need to be taken into consideration before such a trial could be authorised.

At the conclusion of the discussion a motion was put by Matthew Bell and Seconded by William Pimlott. On being put to a vote, of 9 for and 6 against, it was RESOLVED, that - Officers investigate the implications on officers' Terms and Conditions of Employment and the impact on local risk budgets in respect of overtime payments, ahead of a possible trial of holding Community and Children's Services Committee Meetings on two evenings in 2020/21.

**7. HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND ALMSHOUSES SUB COMMITTEE: TRIBUNAL OUTCOME AND PLANNING APPLICATION DELAYS IN OTHER BOROUGHES**

The Chairman of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee was heard in respect of Great Arthur House. Members noted that the City Corporation had lost its appeal against the decision of the First Tier Tribunal; i.e. - that leaseholders were not liable to contribute towards the cost of the recladding works. Given the serious implications for the Housing Revenue Account generally, the City had applied to seek Leave to Appeal further.

Members noted that Counsel's opinion stated that the City had strong grounds. As this fell within the remit of the Grand Committee, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee had been sighted on this opinion and supported the decision to appeal. Members would receive a non-public report in due course, setting out the next stages in the legal process, the legal costs to date and Counsel's estimate for potential future legal costs.

The Sub Committee had also discussed planning delays, noting that resources for dealing with planning applications was an issue generally across local authorities. The Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee had spoken to the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee about the possibility of raising this at the Local Authority Leaders' Committee. The Assistant Director, Barbican and Property Services advised that only 2 planning applications were awaiting decision; one at Holloway and one at Sydenham Hill.

**8. HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING SUB COMMITTEE: OPTIONS APPRAISAL BID**

The Chairman was heard in respect of the recent report to the Resource Allocation Sub Committee. Members noted that the Capital Bid had been successful and there was increased confidence in respect of the Revenues Bid. Members would receive an update at the March meeting of the Committee.

**9. DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET ESTIMATES AND HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY BUSINESS PLAN 2020/21 - COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES - EXCLUDING HRA**

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which presented the Department's budget estimates and final high-level summary Business Plan for 2020/21. Members noted that, in the context of the on-going Fundamental Review, they would receive a further deep dive session on the budget before the April meeting of the Committee. Members

noted that, further to the Chairman's update during the previous item, Appendix 3 to this report (the Capital Project Bids) had become out of date and would be updated in the next Budget report the Committee.

Members noted that this report was subject to a corporate template, designed to provide a high level summary, and this limited the amount of narrative which could be included. Members were reminded of their quarterly detailed reports, which referenced the previously agreed aims and objectives for the Business Plan. Members also agreed to amend the recommendations slightly to include consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman in respect of (3) below; to change the terminology in (4) from '*amendments*' to '*material changes*' and include consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman. In concluding, Members noted that any uplifts arising from the Homelessness bids would be included in (3) and were reminded that in-year budget uplifts were likely to be rejected unless essential.

RESOLVED, that:

1. The Community and Children's Services Department's proposed revenue budget (excluding HRA) for 2020/21 be approved for submission to Finance Committee.
2. The Community and Children's Services Department's proposed capital and supplementary revenue projects budgets (excluding HRA) for 2020/21 be approved for submission to Finance Committee.
3. The Chamberlain be authorised, in consultation with the Director of Community and Children's Services and the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee, to revise these budgets to allow for any further implications arising from Corporate Projects, other reviews and changes to the Cyclical Works Programme.
4. Any material changes to the 2019/20 and 2020/21 budgets, arising during budget setting, be delegated to the Chamberlain, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee.
5. The factors taken into consideration in compiling the Community and Children's Services Department's Business Plan be noted, including efficiency measures.
6. Subject to the incorporation of any changes sought by this Committee, the final high-level summary Business Plan for 2020/21 be approved.

10. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND CAPITAL BUDGETS (HRA ) 2020/21**  
Members considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Community and Children's Services which provided the annual submission of the revenue and capital budgets. The report also sought approval for the provisional revenue budget for 2020/21 and its recommendation to the Finance Committee.

RESOLVED, that –

- a. The proposed 2020/21 revenue budget be approved for submission to the Finance Committee.
- b. The draft capital budget be approved.
- c. The Chamberlain be authorised to revise these budgets to allow for further implications arising from departmental reorganisations and other reviews.

11. **EDUCATION PERFORMANCE FOR CITY PRIMARY PUPILS 2019**

This report was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

12. **STRONGER COMMUNITIES AND SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME**

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, which sought to offer the Small Grants Scheme on a rolling basis from 1 April 2020. Members noted that the Stronger Communities main grants programme would continue, with two deadlines each year for larger applications.

The Chairman of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee commended the flexibility offered by the new process in helping community groups to plan ahead. Members noted that officers in the Grants Team would be on hand to assist residents without access to the internet, and a communications plan was underway to raise awareness of these changes. The Chairman of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee was commended for his tenacity in driving this project.

RESOLVED, that –

1. The new Small Grants process be approved.
2. The revision to the criteria for the Stronger Communities Programme to outline change for the Small Grants Programme be noted.
3. The Small Grants Application Form be noted.

13. **BARBICAN AND COMMUNITY LIBRARIES - SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which updated Members on the range of innovative activities and services provided by Barbican and Community Libraries. Members commended the staff in the Libraries and were pleased to note that their services extended beyond City residents and their children.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

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

The Director of Public Health was heard in respect of the Coronavirus and Member noted that, as of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020, there were 3 confirmed cases in the UK. Whilst unable to provide specifics, the Director advised that there had been no person-to-person spread of the virus within the UK and Public Health England were leading on the National and London-wide response. The Director also advised that Pandemic Flu Plans would be activated by the Resilience Team, who were in regular contact with Local Emergency Planning Teams.

**16. 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.

<b>Item no(s)</b>	<b>para no(s)</b>
17,18	3
21	1,2, 3 & 4

**17. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019 be approved, subject to correcting a typing error.

**18. WAIVER REPORT: CITY OF LONDON PRIMARY ACADEMY ISLINGTON (COLPAI)**

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

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

There were no questions.

**20. 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.

**21. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019 be approved.

**The meeting ended at 12.55 pm**

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Chairman

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