

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 22 May 2020

Minutes of the meeting streamed live on You Tube at 11 am

Present

Members:

Randall Anderson (Chairman)	Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen
Ruby Sayed (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy Catherine McGuinness
George Abrahams	Benjamin Murphy
Munsur Ali	Deputy Joyce Nash
Rehana Ameer	Barbara Newman
Matthew Bell	Dhruv Patel
Peter Bennett	Susan Pearson
Mary Durcan	William Pimlott
Helen Fentimen	Henrika Priest
John Fletcher	Jason Pritchard
Marianne Fredericks	James de Sausmarez
Alderman Prem Goyal	
Alderman David Graves	
Deputy the Revd Stephen Haines	
Graeme Harrower	

Officers:

Andrew Carter	- Director, Community and Children's Services
Sandra Husbands	- Director of Public Health
Andy Liggins	- Public Health Consultant
Carol Boswarthack	- Community and Children's Services
Simon Cribbens	- Community & Children's Services Department
Gerald Mehrtens	- Community & Children's Services
Paul Murtagh	- Community & Children's Services
Chris Pelham	- Community & Children's Services
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's Department
Nicholas Welland	- City Surveyors
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerk's Department
John Cater	- Town Clerk's Department
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's, Communications Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Caroline Haines.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 24th April be deferred, subject reviewing the discussion on COLPAI. The Town Clerk agreed to draft a revised text for circulation to Members ahead of the next meeting of the Committee in June 2020.

Matters arising

The Chairman advised that the prospect of moving some meetings to the evening was still under consideration. However, Members noted that the current practice of running virtual meetings required the presence of at least 2 Committee Clerks and an IT Officer, which would have further implications in respect of staff Terms and Conditions, should meetings move to the evening.

Members were reminded that they had been canvassed earlier in the year in respect of trialling a couple of Committees on a different day of the week (to Fridays). Members also noted the provisional invitation sent for a meeting on Wednesday, 17th June 2020, as an alternative to 19th June 2020.

4. **COVID- 19: UPDATES FROM THE VARIOUS SERVICE MANAGERS**

The Director of Community and Children's Services invited the Department's Service Managers to provide the following updates:

- Adult Social Care; Children's Social Care; Homelessness and Rough Sleeping
- Shielding and community
- Housing – Support to tenants and HRA commercial properties
- Education, Employment and Skills
- Libraries
- Public Health
- Communication with residents

The Chairman and Members thanked all officers for their ongoing hard work during the crisis. During the discussion and questions, the following points were noted:

Homelessness

Post lockdown, homeless clients would be assisted into a pathway, but the next step might not be directly to a final long-term accommodation. A Member asked if a first offer had been unsuitable, whether a second choice would be available. In respect of the current 13 homeless clients still living on the streets, a Member was concerned at the closure of public toilets and water fountains and asked if consideration could be given to making the facilities at the St Paul's Youth Hostel available. There was a further request for these clients to have access to the service provided by the Square Mile Food Bank. The officer agreed to check whether these requests would be possible within Public Health England Guidelines.

Deliveries

Members noted that if an individual was registered on the Government website, or directly with the City of London Corporation for food deliveries, then the Government would provide this service directly. Officers agreed to investigate two cases; (1) in respect of a food delivery sent to an old address; and (2) a delay in equipment being delivered to a patient following discharge from hospital.

Congestion charge

The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee had recently spoken to the GLA in respect of the congestion charge exemption being applied to NHS and Care Home staff, but not to individual carers. The Chairman (of the Community and Children's Services Committee) agreed to write to the GLA asking if they could reconsider.

Members noted that, as the Congestion Charge fell within the remit of the Planning and Transportation Committee, it was proposed by Ruby Sayed, Seconded by George Abrahams and RESOLVED, that – the Planning and Transportation Committee be asked to note the concerns of the Community and Children's Services Committee and, in order to ensure that the City's key workers would not be penalised at this difficult time, the GLA be asked to reconsider their decision on the Congestion Charge exemption, to extend beyond NHS staff and care home workers, to include key workers.

5. COVID-19: TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING

The Committee considered a report of the Directors of Community and Children's Services and Public Health in respect of Covid-19 testing and contact tracing.

Members noted that, since the production of this report, a number of local authorities had been invited to run a pilot, including the City and Hackney (as they have a single Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Public Health Team. The Director of Public Health advised that this opportunity would help to shape the system and provide learning from the unique population mix across the City and Hackney. Furthermore, as lockdown eased, the City would have a unique insight into commuter behaviours. Members noted that the GLA was very supportive of the pilot. The Ward Members for Portsoken advised the Committee of their strong community links and offered to help the Director of Public Health with communications.

In response to a question about the upcoming target of 1st June 2020, the Director of Public Health (DPH) advised that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) managed test results but the Directors of Public Health could advocate for GPs to receive them. The Public Health Directors would obtain information from contact tracing updates and petition for as much detail as possible. Furthermore, good working relationships existed between local Public Health Directors, Public Health England and its Sub Regions. Members also noted that there would be more intense local involvement should there be

an outbreak in a local care home, for example. Plans for local training of contract tracers across London were also underway.

Members noted that the City and Hackney Public Health Team have very effective health intelligence and more analytical capacity than other teams. They were also working with the North East London STP (NHS) to understand patterns and clusters.

In concluding, the Director explained how the system would evolve throughout the outbreak, and as lockdown measures eased. As an outcome, the Director thought it was likely that there would be more public health presence at a local level, with more specialists in post.

RESOLVED, That:

1. The current approach to planning for contact tracing in City and Hackney be supported.
2. An update on progress (including in relation to responding to any national announcements from the working group) be received at the next meeting.

6. **INTERNET ACCESS**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the City of London Corporation's targeted support to help some vulnerable or low-income households access the internet to support learning. The report set out an option for an expanded scheme, limited to the duration of the current pandemic restrictions, to targeted groups. It noted that a budget will need to be identified to deliver such a scheme and, as this would be from local risk, then further decisions would be required in respect of other projects and priorities.

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

- Covid-19 had exacerbated digital exclusion as local Wi-Fi hot spots were limited following the closure of many public facilities.
- An expansion of the scheme could possibly reach the out of City estates. However, this report sought to address data poverty and, if expanded to equipment, there would not only be further budget implications but challenges if there were gaps in IT skills and knowledge by some recipients.
- Schools had identified those children at risk; i.e. – those in or leaving care, on plans or with disabilities. A number of schools had been providing laptops to Year 10, or printed lesson packs and teachers were in weekly contact with pupils. Members noted that Prior Weston had loaned equipment to some pupils.

- The Department for Education (DFE) had allocated laptops to schools and a delivery was expected on Tuesday, 26th May, after the Bank Holiday weekend.
- A local MP had appealed to larger companies who regularly turned over their IT equipment.

RESOLVED, That:

1. An expanded offer be agreed for those meeting the criteria; i.e. – low income households in receipt of benefits, and defined as:
 - clinically extremely vulnerable (“shielded”)
 - clinically vulnerable (advised by government to “self-isolate”)
2. Such a scheme provide a hotspot device as the primary offer.
3. Officers work with local charities and businesses and approval of an additional budget to support the scheme be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children’s Services Committee.
7. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.
8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
There were no items.
9. **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 Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act as follows:-

Item No(s)	Paragraph No(s)
11-13	2
10. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2020 be approved.
11. **INSTALLATION OF SPRINKLERS IN SOCIAL HOUSING TOWER BLOCKS: GATEWAY 1-4: ISSUE REPORT**
Members considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services.

At 12.55pm Members agreed to suspend standing orders to conclude the business on the agenda

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

There was one question whilst the public were excluded.

13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was one item of business considered and approved whilst the public were excluded in respect of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Commercial Tenants and Covid 19 – Proposal for Additional Support

The meeting ended at 1.30 pm.

Chairman

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