

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
Friday, 24 July 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the meeting streamed on You Tube at 10.45 am

Present

Members:

George Abrahams	Alderman Alastair King
Munsur Ali	Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen
Randall Anderson	Alderman Bronek Masojada
Matthew Bell	Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Peter Bennett	Benjamin Murphy
Mary Durcan	Deputy Joyce Nash
Helen Fentimen	Dhruv Patel
John Fletcher	Susan Pearson
Marianne Fredericks	William Pimlott
Alderman David Graves (in the Chair)	Henrika Priest
Caroline Haines	Jason Pritchard
The Revd Stephen Haines	Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Graeme Harrower	

Officers:

Andrew Carter	- Director of Community and Children's Services
Carol Boswarthack	- Community and Children's Services
Simon Cribbens	- Community and Children's Services
Chris Pelham	- Community and Children's Services
Gerald Mehrtens	- Community and Children's Services
Jason Hayes	- Community and Children's Services
Paul Murtagh	- Community and Children's Services
Will Norman	- Community and Children's Services
Andy Liggins	- Community and Children's Services
Sandra Husbands	- Director of Public Health, City and Hackney
Julie Fittock	- City Surveyors
Stephen Bage	- City Surveyors
Richard Chamberlain	- City Surveyor
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlains
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerks
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerks, Communications Department

It was moved by Joyce Nash and seconded by Randall Anderson that Alderman David Graves take the Chair until the election of the Chairman at agenda item 4.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Laura Jorgensen, Caroline Haines and James de Sausmarez.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **THE ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL**

The Committee received the Order of the Court of Common Council dated 16th July 2020, which appointed the Committee and approved its Terms of Reference.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Committee elected a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 29.

Being the only Member willing to serve, it was RESOLVED, that – Randall Anderson be elected as Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee for 2020-21.

On taking the Chair, Mr Anderson thanked retiring Members Angus Knowles Cutler and Philip Woodhouse and Aldermen John Garbutt and Prem Goyal and welcomed Deputy Henry Jones and Aldermen Broniek Masojada and Alistair King.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Committee elected a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 30.

Being the only Member willing to serve, it was RESOLVED, that – Ruby Sayed be elected as Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee for 2020-21.

6. **TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO CO-OPTEEES**

The Committee confirmed the appointments of Ms Laura Jorgensen and Mr Matt Piper.

7. **APPOINTMENTS TO SUB COMMITTEES AND BOARDS**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk, which sought to appoint to the Sub Committees and approve their Terms of Reference. The Town Clerk had circulated statements in support of nominations ahead of the meeting.

Members noted that there had been 10 expressions of interest for 6 places (from the Court and CCS Members) on the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee but the Police Authority Board had taken up just 1 of their 2 allocated places. Members agreed that the Sub Committee had been very effective over the past year and its work was at a critical stage. Therefore, it was agreed to temporarily extend the Membership to allow those who had previously served, and one new Member with relevant experience, onto the Committee for 2020/21. In addition, there was 9 expressions of interest for 8 places on the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee and Members agreed to extend the Membership for 2020/21 to accommodate an additional member.

RESOLVED, that –

- a) **The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee's Terms of Reference be approved, and the following Members be appointed for 2020/21**, together with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee:

1. Alderman Bronek Masojada - CCS
2. Natasha Lloyd Owen - CCS
3. William Pimlott - CCS
4. Alderman Vincent Keaveny - Court
5. Marianne Fredericks - CCS
6. Benjamin Murphy - CCS
7. Alderman Alison Gowman - Court
8. Helen Fentimen – CCS
9. Mary Durcan - CCS
10. Henrika Priest – CCS

- b) **The Terms of Reference of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee be approved, and the following Members be appointed for 2020/21**, together with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee.

1. Jason Pritchard
2. William Pimlott
3. Peter Bennett
4. Deputy Stephen Haines
5. Alderman David Graves
6. John Fletcher
7. Mary Durcan
8. Marianne Fredericks
9. Susan Pearson

- c) **The Terms of Reference of the Safeguarding Sub Committee be approved, and the following Members be appointed for 2020/21**, together with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee:

1. Marianne Fredericks
2. Mary Durcan
3. Susan Pearson
4. Helen Fentimen
5. Alderman David Graves
6. John Fletcher

- d). **Randall Anderson be appointed to the Education Board.**
- e). **The following Members be appointed to the Education Charity Sub Committee (of the Education Board) for 2020/21:**

1. Randall Anderson
2. Ruby Sayed
3. Benjamin Murphy
- 1 x vacancy

- f). **The following Members be appointed to the Integrated Commissioning Sub Committee for 2021/22;** together with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman:

1. Marianne Fredericks – Member (by virtue of being Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Sub Committee)
2. Dhruv Patel – as Deputy
3. Mary Durcan – as Deputy
4. Helen Fentimen – as Deputy

Members noted an amendment to the wider Terms of Reference for the Integrated Commissioning Board to include its role as the Local Outbreak Board; to provide governance over local responses to outbreaks of the Covid-19 virus.

- g). **The Chairman** be appointed to serve on the following for **2020/21:**

- **The Housing Delivery Programme Working Group; and**
- **The Health and Wellbeing Board**

- h). The following be appointed as **Lead Portfolio Members for 2020/21:**

1. **Children Safeguarding** – Randall Anderson and Ruby Sayed
2. **Adult Safeguarding** – Randall Anderson and Ruby Sayed
3. **Young People** – Natasha Lloyd-Owen
4. **Rough Sleeping and Homelessness** – Randall Anderson

8. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 17th June 2019 be approved.

9. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS LIST**

The Committee received its outstanding actions list and noted the following updates:

- a) Items would be updated to include target dates.

- b) **Plant on the roof of Crescent House** – this would be added to the action tracker for the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee.
- c) **Internet access** – Council Tax benefit recipients, if shielding or self-isolating, had been offered dongles. There had been 21 applications and 13 pre-loaded dongles had been distributed. Tablets and laptops were also available.
- d) **Food Banks** – Members noted the excellent food bank support that had emerged during the coronavirus lockdown. Officers continued to work with partners to explore a sustainable model, to support people in food poverty in the period ahead, and would seek to mobilise this over the summer. Members expressed a desire to review the options for future delivery at the September Meeting. The Assistant Director advised that this would require the current model to be sustainable until the end of October, to allow for any transition, and it might not be possible as it relied on volunteers. The food bank also occupied the Golden Lane Community Centre, which might be required for other uses before then. In response to a question about foodbanks' support of homeless people at the YHA, the Assistant Director advised that the department had secured a lease until the end of March and would commission catering to meet that need.

10. **PRESENTATION: CULTURE MILE**

The Committee received a presentation from the Culture Mile Manager. During the discussion and questions, the following points were noted:

- a) As a cultural district, Culture Mile focusses on the area between Farringdon and Moorgate. This is where its core cultural partners (Barbican Centre, Guildhall School, LSO, Museum of London) are located and already collaborating in terms of investment across the public realm and programming locations. Since Covid-19, the project and its partners have pivoted to focus on engaging communities within a 30-minute walking distance from the district (rather than London-wide and beyond). 'Play packs' have been distributed to families lacking internet access across the City and in adjacent boroughs.
- b) It was suggested that the auditing of Culture Mile's portfolio, in terms of diversity, could be discussed by the Tackling Racism Taskforce, along with a longer-term solution in respect of diversifying those who make content choices.
- c) The Culture Mile Team has been working with the 'Covid Silver Group' in terms of Business Engagement, looking particularly at creative and cultural SMEs. A survey has been issued to these businesses to identify their sustainability needs.
- d) The Culture Mile Team has been engaging with the Community Engagement Team in respect of links to communities throughout the

City. The Culture Mile Manager agreed to discuss this further with the Portsoken Ward Members.

- e) Whilst Culture Mile was not able to dictate pricing strategies to its core partners, it had been offering free events in the surrounding areas. These have attracted substantial audiences, such as the Smithfield Street Parties, and achieved a higher level of BAME/disabled audience engagement than events of a similar scale and nature.
- f) It was suggested that there should be a frame of reference on the website to ensure young people, women and girls felt included.
- g) Culture Mile is committed to developing content which supports wellbeing/mental health through culture and the arts.
- h) Barts is a member of the Culture Mile Network and members of the Culture Mile team had met with the senior team at the hospital to look at supporting their fundraising ambitions and working with them towards their plans for the 900-Year anniversary celebrations.

Members had posted a number of comments in the meeting's 'chat box', which were more specific in terms of the above points and the Town Clerk agreed to forward them to the Culture Mile Manager.

11. **PROPOSED LOCAL LETTING POLICY**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which sought approval of a time limited local lettings policy. The officer agreed to provide an update in the non-public part of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee, setting out where any gaps and shortfalls were.

RESOLVED, that - the local lettings policy in respect of studio upgrade enhancement be approved.

12. **REVENUE OUTTURN 2019/20 - COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE (CITY FUND)**

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Community and Children's Services which compared the 2019/20 revenue outturn for the non-Housing Revenue Account (HRA) services overseen by the Community and Children's Services Committee with the final agreed budget for the year.

RESOLVED, that – the revenue outturn report for 2019/20 be noted, together with the Director of Community and Children's Services' proposal to carry forward £45,000 to 2020/21.

13. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - OUTTURN 2019/20**

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Community and Children's Services which compared the outturn for the

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) in 2019/20 with the final agreed budget for the year.

The Assistant Director explained that an estimate on what was due to be spent on each housing delivery project had been approved at the start of the year, but a number of these projects had since been delayed. Therefore, the relevant Section 106 funding for each project was also underspent but would be applied once the projects progressed. Members received regular updates on S106 funding provision in the Housing Delivery Programme reports; the next one being due in October 2020. Members noted that the Assistant Director met regularly with the Chamberlain to consider budget items and variances, mitigations and actions. Item 22 on today's Non-Public Agenda (Major Works Programme) looked at this in more detail.

The Assistant Director agreed to check on the communal electricity supply at Golden Lane, to ensure that it was being charged to the various projects.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

14. **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (DCCS)
BUSINESS PLAN: 2019/20 END OF YEAR UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which set out progress made during April 2019 – March 2020 against the Department of Community and Children's Services (DCCS) Business Plan.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

15. **HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING RECOVERY PLAN**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the Rough Sleeping Recovery Plan, which had also been scrutinised at the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee. Members were asked to review the plan, at Appendix 2 to the report, and provide feedback. Members noted that food provision and access to the YHA for washing facilities was still being made available, via the outreach service, and being considered as part of a longer-term plan.

RESOLVED, That – the plan be noted.

16. **CITY WELLBEING CENTRE UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which provided an update on the progress of the City Wellbeing Centre (the new mental health centre the City Corporation is delivering). Members noted that the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic had delayed works, which will now be completed at the end of August 2020.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

17. **PHASED RE-OPENING OF LENDING LIBRARIES**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Communities and Children's Services in respect of the phased re-opening of lending libraries.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

At 12.40 the Committee agreed to suspend Standing Orders in order to complete the business on the agenda.

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

- a) In response to a question about an informal consultation of City residents/workers about installing a running track, the Chairman and Officers confirmed that this had not been approved by the City of London Corporation and that the consultation was not a City consultation.
- b) It was suggested that the Health and Wellbeing Board consider an update report on the Sports Strategy, where this and similar matters could be considered further, and that the Department of the Built Environment be included in respect of a running track. There was a further suggestion in respect of providing gym vouchers in the more deprived areas of the City.
- c) In response to a request for a Covid-19 update on the Department's response to the crisis, the Director advised that a Corporation-wide independent review was underway. Members would receive a report at the October Committee, presenting outcomes in respect of the Community and Children's Services Department, with a response and action plan.
- d) There were concerns expressed about the impact of isolation on elderly residents and a request for provision at the Sir Ralph Perring Centre, possibly in conjunction with a marquee, to allow elderly people to socialise safely. The Assistant Director has been working with colleagues in City Surveyors on making buildings Covid-19 safe and would investigate this.
- e) In response to a question about the provision of a GP satellite service at the Green Box, the Director had raised this with Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) who confirmed that they would support lobbying.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items.

20. 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 12 A) of the Local Government Act.

Item no
21-31

Paragraph no
3

21. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
RESOLVED, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 17th June 2019 be approved.
22. **HOUSING MAJOR WORKS PROGRAMME (CURRENT AND FUTURE): FINANCIAL UPDATE**
The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Community and Children’s Services.
23. **COVID-19: CAPITAL PROJECTS CONTINGENCY FUND**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the City Surveyor.
24. **COMMERCIAL TENANTS AND COVID-19: PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services and the City Surveyor.
25. **OFFERING OF OPEN SPACES AND HRA ASSETS FOR THE HOUSING OF MOBILE AND WIRELESS EQUIPMENT**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the City Surveyor.
26. **ISLEDEN HOUSE INFILL PROJECT - GATEWAY 5: AUTHORITY TO START WORK**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services.
27. **CITY STOP SMOKING SERVICE**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services.
28. **ROUGH SLEEPING OUTREACH SERVICE - PHASE 2**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services.
29. **GOLDEN LANE SPORTS AND FITNESS CENTRE**
This report was deferred to the September Committee.
30. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.
31. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

The Chairman agreed to admit the following report of the City Surveyor, which was considered and approved: **Sydenham Hill Redevelopment, Lewisham, SE26 6ND – Gateway 4C – Issues Report**

The meeting ended at 1.40 pm

Chairman

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