

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 12 December 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Friday, 12 December 2014 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Billy Dove (Chairman)	Ann Holmes
Dhruv Patel (Deputy Chairman)	Revd Dr Martin Dudley
Deputy Bill Fraser	Deputy Michael Welbank
Marianne Fredericks	Mark Wheatley
Deputy the Revd Stephen Haines	Karina Dostalova
Gareth Moore	Vivienne Littlechild
Deputy Joyce Nash	Professor John Lumley
Elizabeth Rogula	Barbara Newman
Virginia Rounding	Delis Regis
Judith Pleasance	Philip Woodhouse
Emma Price	Deputy John Barker
Tom Sleigh	John Fletcher
Deputy Henry Jones	
Alderman Timothy Hailes	

Officers:

Natasha Dogra	Town Clerk's Department
Ade Adetosoye	Community and Children's Services Department
Neal Hounsell	Community and Children's Services Department
Chris Pelham	Community and Children's Services Department
Jacquie Campbell	Community and Children's Services Department
Nicole Vincent	Community and Children's Services Department
Sarah Greenwood	Community and Children's Services Department
Karen Tarbox	Community and Children's Services Department
Mark Jarvis	Chamberlain's Department
Greg Williams	Public Relations Office

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Alderman Bear, Alderman Graves, Deputy McGuinness, Emma Edhem and Laura Jorgensen.

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

Mr Moore declared an interest in all housing related matters as he was a resident of the Golden Lane Estate.

Deputy Jones declared an interest in item 19 "Middlesex Street Phase IV – the Retail Parade Strategy" as he was a leaseholder on Middlesex Street.

3. **MINUTES**

Resolved – that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

4. **COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES: ANNUAL PUBLIC RELATIONS UPDATE**

Members were updated on Public Relations activities in support of the services for which the Community and Children's Services Committee is responsible during the period October 2013 to November 2014. Highlights of the support for the services of the Committee included:

- Media
- Public Affairs
- Events
- Website
- Digital communications and social media
- Publishing and related activities
- Member and internal communications
- Filming

In response to a query from Member regarding invitations to events, Officers from the Public Relations Department agreed to investigate the way in which Members were informed about events and how invitations were assigned.

Received.

5. **NEW ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014 - DELEGATED POWERS**

Members were informed of the relevant provisions of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Act replaces the various measures previously available to tackle anti-social behaviour within the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 with a new set of powers, intended to provide a simpler and more streamlined framework. It introduces new mechanisms with the aim of giving victims and local communities a greater say in the treatment of anti-social behaviour and low-level crime, and it strengthens the ability of landlords to terminate tenancies on grounds relating to anti-social behaviour.

19 powers in the previous act are replaced with 6 simpler and more flexible ones but their implementation will require effective and coordinated consideration by all the agencies involved. In setting out the new powers, the City Corporation will always seek restorative solutions to issues and only use these powers as a last resort.

In adopting the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, it will be necessary to amend the City's Scheme of Delegation and also require close and coordinated working with partner organisations - Officers agreed to circulate the flow chart outlining the various new delegations which was considered at the Safer City Partnership meeting.

Members noted that although a range of different Committees had considered this report they were supportive of this democratic process. Officers agreed to review this process and report back to the Committee in 12 months' time or sooner.

Resolved: Members agreed that the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee and Community and Children Services Committee, for their respective areas of responsibility, delegate authority as follows:

1. The Director of Built Environment, the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection and the Director of Community and Children Services or their authorised Deputy be granted delegated authority to seek an Injunction to Prevent Nuisance and Annoyance in accordance with Part 1 of the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
2. The Director of Built Environment, the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection and the Director of Community and Children Services, or their authorised Deputy, be granted delegated authority to apply for Closure Orders and to authorise their officers to issue Closure Notices and in accordance with Part 3 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
3. The Director of Built Environment, the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection and the Director of Community and Children Services be granted delegated authority to authorise Officers to serve Community Protection Notices, and Fixed Penalty Notices in the event of a breach, in accordance with Part 4 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
4. That approval was granted to enable the Director of Built Environment, the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection and the Director of Community and Children Services to be able to designate Registered Social Landlords to issue Community Protection Notices , in accordance with Part 4 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014; and
5. That approval was granted to the Director of Built Environment, the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection and the Director of Community and Children Services to be able to authorise Police Community Support Officers and other Police staff to serve Community Protection Notices and Fixed Penalty Notices, in accordance with Part 4 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
6. That the Director of Built Environment, the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection and the Director of Community and Children Services or their authorised Deputy were granted delegated authority to seek Criminal Behaviour Orders, in accordance with Part 2 of the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

6. **COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN QUARTER 2 UPDATE**

Members were informed of the progress made during Quarter 2 (July to September) against the 2014–17 Community and Children’s Services Business Plan. The report showed what had been achieved and the progress made against our five departmental strategic aims:

- Safety and protection for all
- Healthy lifestyles for all
- Learning and engagement opportunities for all
- Better homes and stronger communities
- Value for money and outstanding services.

Departmental performance and progress for Quarter 2 was very good overall. A total of 12 of 18 performance indicators were either above target or on target. Members congratulated Officers on this achievement.

Resolved.

7. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS - 2015/16

Members were informed of the annual submission of the revenue and capital budgets overseen by your Committee. In particular it seeks approval to the provisional revenue budget for 2015/16, for subsequent submission to the Finance Committee. Details of the Committee’s draft capital budget were also provided. The budgets were prepared within the resources allocated to the Director.

The provisional nature of the revenue budgets particularly recognised that further revisions may arise from the necessary realignment of funds resulting from corporate projects.

Resolved. That Members:

- reviewed the provisional 2015/16 revenue budget and ensured that it reflects the Committee’s objectives and, approved the budget for submission to the Finance Committee;
- reviewed and approved the draft capital budget;
- authorised the Chamberlain to revise these budgets to allow for further implications arising from departmental reorganisations and other reviews, corporate projects, changes to the Additional Works Programme.
- If specific service based review proposals included with this budget report are rejected by the Committee, or other Committees request that further proposals are pursued, that the substitution of other suitable proposals for a corresponding amount is delegated to the Town Clerk in discussion with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the relevant Committee. If the substituted saving is not considered to be straight forward in nature, then the Town Clerk shall also consult the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of the Policy and Resources Committee prior to approving an alternative proposal(s).

8. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2015/16

Members were informed of the annual submission of the revenue and capital budgets overseen by the Committee. In particular it sought approval for the provisional revenue budget for 2015/16, for subsequent submission to the Finance Committee. Details of the HRA draft capital budget were also provided.

There is a very significant increase in the programme of planned cyclical repairs which is to be funded from balances held in reserves for this purpose.

Resolved – that Members:

- reviewed the provisional 2015/16 revenue budget to ensure that it reflects the Committee's objectives and, approved the proposed budget for submission to the Finance Committee
- reviewed and approved the draft capital budget;
- authorised the Chamberlain to revise these budgets to allow for further implications arising from departmental reorganisations and other reviews.

9. **HOUSING - ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND FIVE-YEAR WORKS PROGRAMME**

Members were informed that in May 2014, the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee was presented with the Housing Service's draft Asset Management Strategy (AMS) for information.

The AMS supports the delivery of key priorities within the Housing Strategy, e.g. increasing the supply of homes and making better use of existing homes. It also supports the wider corporate context.

Residents were invited to comment on the draft strategy via a website consultation process, which was held in September 2014. A workshop was also held at the Residents' Day in October 2014 in regards to the proposed City of London Home Standard. Unfortunately no comments were received on the overall strategy; however, residents who took part in the workshop all responded positively to the proposed City of London Home Standard. Residents were asked to rate the importance of each element to them on a scale of 1–5 (with 1 being least important and 5 being most important).

In response to a query from the Deputy Chairman it was noted that while the Chancellor's Autumn Statement did not have an impact on banked monies, it did have an impact on S106 money going forward.

Resolved: Members approved the strategy for adoption by the Housing Service.

10. **MIDDLESEX STREET SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT (MSSP) PHASE III**

The Committee previously approved a Gateway 3 report investigating the saleable opportunity of developing up to 100 new flats at the Middlesex Street Estate. It was estimated that the proceeds of sale would realise at least £11

million residual value which would fund capital repairs and sustainability works that would otherwise cost the City in the region of £10.5 million.

Investigations were carried out and a Soft Market Testing exercise was conducted which concluded that there would be strong interest from developers, subject to more information about the impact of this development on neighbours' rights to light, which could restrict the potential scale of development. The study indicated that the development would entail significant infringement of rights to light; resulting in considerable risks for the City should it proceed with this project. It was therefore recommended that this project be cancelled.

There was also a requirement to refund long lessees who agreed to contribute more for triple-glazed windows on the understanding that this would form part of this sustainability project rather than the standard cost for double-glazing replacement.

Resolved:

Members authorised the cancellation of this project and proceeded with the programme of repair and maintenance that was required for the estate.

Members refunded long lessees £77,901.91, which represents the difference in the cost of triple-glazed windows compared with the contribution received from Minerva for double-glazed window replacements.

11. PROJECT PROPOSAL - INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL REFURBISHMENT WORKS PROGRAMME AT THE MIDDLESEX STREET ESTATE.

Members were informed that Phase 3 of the Middlesex Street Sustainability Project (MSSP) was an option that was explored to finance the necessary refurbishment works and some improvement works at the estate on the basis of the sale value of circa 100 new flats to be built on the roof of the estate.

Following surveys including rights to light and daylight and sunlight analysis, as well as market-testing with developers, the new development proposals are no longer considered viable and will not go ahead, therefore the refurbishment work will now proceed independently.

There are some works which will benefit by proceeding in advance of others, it is anticipated that individual works projects may proceed separately. The scheduling will be outlined at the Options Appraisal stage.

This programme solely applies to the Middlesex Street Estate. All other estates are excluded. However, as part of the planning phase of this programme, assessment will be made of whether it is possible to include Middlesex Street Estate works delivery with existing or upcoming projects.

Received.

12. WATER SYSTEM TESTING AND ASSOCIATED SAFETY WORKS AT THE BARBICAN AND THE HRA ESTATES

To allow for the incorporation of comments recent during a recent consultation this item was withdrawn from the agenda by the Chairman of the Committee prior to the meeting. Officers agreed to review the report and submit it for the Committee's consideration in due course.

13. CREATION AND ELECTION OF A YOUNG LORD MAYOR

Members were informed that The City of London's youth services have been provided by external organisations since 2013, and the City's Youth Participation Strategy was agreed by Members in June 2014.

The strategy includes the creation of an elected Young Lord Mayor (YLM), similar to Young Mayor positions within neighbouring local authorities. The YLM would represent the views of the City's young people, investigate the concerns of young people and share young people's views with decision makers. YLMs develop a number of skills during their time in office, including increased confidence and improved communication skills. The City of London Corporation would gain increased awareness of the views of local young people and better participation from service users in developing local services.

Members raised the following concerns:

- The role would be undertaken by only one individual which may not be as beneficial as appointing a Council or similar body to represent young people in the City.
- All young people would need to be carefully vetted by the organisation.
- There were various risks and issues associated with the increase in young peoples' social media presence.
- More detailed was required regarding the terms of reference for the role
- Members requested information regarding the election of the Young Lord Mayor and who the electorate would be.
- Members queried whether the person or persons who filled this role would be privy to private information and documents.
- Members queried the amount of time that the young people would be able to give to this role. Officers said the activities would not overlap with study time.
- Overall, Members were very pleased that Officers were encouraging the involvement of young people in the work of the City of London Corporation.
- Members agreed that the City must be made more accessible to young people.
- It was noted that activities such as this would encourage, influence and help young people to understand the work of the City of London Corporation.
- The Committee were very supportive of this activity and asked Officers to revise the report to ensure all of their queries and concerns were addressed.

Resolved: Members asked Officers to revise the report addressing the concerns raised and to report back to the Committee prior to seeking approval from the Policy and Resources Committee next year.

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

There were no questions.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

16. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

MOTION - 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 Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

17. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

18. AVONDALE SQUARE RE-DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT

The Committee received the report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

19. MIDDLESEX STREET PHASE IV - THE RETAIL PARADE STRATEGY

The Committee received the report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

20. BIENNIAL UPDATE ON DEPARTMENTAL COMMISSIONING AND CONTRACTS

The Committee received the report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

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

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

The meeting ended at 12.45 pm

Chairman

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