

HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND ALMSHOUSES SUB (COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES) COMMITTEE

Monday, 14 September 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub (Community and Children's Services) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Virginia Rounding (Chairman)	John Fletcher
Ann Holmes (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy the Revd Stephen Haines
Randall Anderson	Gareth Moore
Revd Dr Martin Dudley	Mark Wheatley

Officers:

Philippa Sewell	Town Clerk's Department
Mark Jarvis	Chamberlain's Department
Jacquie Campbell	Community and Children's Services Department
David Padfield	Community and Children's Services Department
Liane Coopey	Community and Children's Services Department
Elizabeth Donnelly	Community and Children's Services Department
Martin Goodwin	Community and Children's Services Department
Sarah Parker	Community and Children's Services Department
Simon Smith	Chartered Institute of Housing

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderman David Graves, Deputy Henry Jones, Deputy Catherine McGuinness, Dhruv Patel and Elizabeth Rogula.

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

Mr Gareth Moore declared an interest in housing matters as a tenant of Golden Lane Estate.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 14 July 2015 be approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Right to Buy Social Mobility Fund

Officers advised that five applications had been received.

Technology

Officers reported that IS were now progressing the Resident Communications and Engagement systems.

Almshouses

Officers advised the review of Charitable Objects and re-examination of the Risk Register had been delayed owing to staff turnover, but were due to be progressed for the next meeting.

4. **HRA BUSINESS PLAN**

The Sub Committee received a presentation from Simon Smith from the Chartered Institute of Housing regarding the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), a ring-fenced account for the landlord-related income and expenditure for the Housing Stock. Mr Smith gave an overview of the history of the Account and detailed the Corporation's financial position, which was relatively positive as compared with London-based Local Authorities. Members discussed the impact High Value Voids and Pay to Stay initiatives being proposed would have on the business plan, and noted that the City of London Corporation had repaid the self-financing debt.

The Chairman thanked Mr Smith for his presentation.

5. **ANNUAL REPORT FOR TENANTS 2014-15**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services which presented the fifth Annual Report for Tenants.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

6. **WELFARE BENEFITS UPDATE & FINANCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMME**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services providing the latest information on the welfare reforms. Members discussed the difficulty residents faced from payments being in arrears, and officers advised of a consultation being launched to all City residents from October regarding the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. **THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION HOUSING ALLOCATION SCHEME 2015**

The Sub Committee considered a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services regarding revisions made to the Housing Allocation Scheme for 2015. Members discussed the changes, and noted the large demand on the housing waiting list for studio flats.

RESOLVED – That the revised City of London Corporation Housing Allocation Scheme be noted, and recommended to the Community & Children's Services Committee for approval.

8. **HORACE JONES HOUSE - REVIEW OF ALLOCATIONS**
The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services regarding the allocation of flats in Horace Jones House.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9. **PROPOSED EXTENSION OF RIGHT TO BUY POLICY**
The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services which presented the details and potential impact of the proposed extension of the Right to Buy policy that the government had communicated to date. Members noted that studio flats were not covered by these proposals, and officers agreed to take these observations and comments back to the Programme Board.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

10. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
The Chairman reminded Members about the Residents' Celebration day on 17th October, and advised that officers would circulate further details electronically.

12. **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 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item	Paragraph
13-14	3
15-16	-

13. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
RESOLVED – That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2015 be approved as a correct record.

14. **COMMUNITY SAFETY PROJECT - CITY ESTATES**
The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services.

15. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE SUB COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 3.09 pm

Chairman

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