

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 8 April 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Friday, 8 April 2016 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Dhruv Patel (Chairman)	Deputy Henry Jones
Gareth Moore	Alderman Sir Paul Judge
Randall Anderson	Professor John Lumley
Deputy John Barker	Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Deputy Billy Dove	Barbara Newman
Emma Edhem	Deputy Joyce Nash
John Fletcher	Emma Price
Marianne Fredericks	Deputy Elizabeth Rogula
Alderman David Graves	Virginia Rounding
Deputy the Revd Stephen Haines	James Tumbridge
Ann Holmes	Mark Wheatley

Officers:

Natasha Dogra	- Town Clerk's Department
Ade Adetosoye	- Director, Community & Children's Services
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- Director, Financial Services
Neal Hounsell	- Community & Children's Services Department
Gerald Mehrtens	- Community & Children's Services Department
Jacquie Campbell	- Community & Children's Services Department
Lorraine Burke	- Community & Children's Services Department
Paul Murtagh	- Community & Children's Services Department
Mike Kettle	- Community & Children's Services Department
Mike Saunders	- Community & Children's Services Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Chris Punter, James de Saumarez and Philip Woodhouse, Delis Regis

The Town Clerk advised that the Deputy Chairman of the Committee had stepped down from the position as he was unable to serve due to Standing Order 30 whereby no resident or tenant of a property owned by the City of London Corporation should serve as Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the service Committee. Upon seeing this in the Committee's Terms of Reference, Mr Moore declared the interest to the Director and Town Clerk who informed him that he would not be able to serve as Deputy Chairman of this Committee.

Discussions ensued regarding the relevance of applying Standing Order 30 to the position of deputy chairman of the grand committee. Members agreed that

Standing Order 30 was relevant in relation to the positions of chairman and deputy chairman of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee only.

Members agreed that there were safeguards in place to ensure that Members made decisions in the interest of the public by declaring any interests that they had under the Code of Conduct, which applied to all elected Members of the Court of Common Council.

The Committee was in agreement that Standing Order 30 should not apply to the position of deputy chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee, where the views of residents and tenants of properties owned by the City Corporation are very relevant and as important as the views of non-resident Members.

Resolved – upon taking a vote, it was unanimously agreed that a report be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee and subsequently the Court of Common Council requesting the suspension of Standing Order 30 in respect of the Community and Children's Services Committee.

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

Mr Moore declared an interest as he was a tenant on the Golden Lane Estate.

3. **MINUTES**

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

Matters Arising:

A Member informed that Committee that her amendment to the minutes of the February Committee meeting regarding the Mais House development report had been accurately amended by the Town Clerk.

4. **APPOINTMENT OF A SCHOOL GOVERNOR: SIR JOHN CASS SCHOOL**

The Committee were invited to appoint a School Governor to the Sir John Cass School.

Resolved – that Mr John Fletcher be appointed as School Governor to the Sir John Cass school for a 3 year term, ending in April 2019.

5. **PRESENTATION: WESTMINSTER DRUGS PROJECT**

The Committee received a presentation from Louisa Pavli, Westminster Drugs Project (WDP) Operations Manager and noted the following:

- The new Square Mile Health service delivered by WDP provided tobacco, alcohol and drug support to residents, businesses and students in the City of London.
- The new service started on the 1st October 2015
- The aim of the service was to:
 - Engage with businesses within the City of London
 - Run health awareness sessions
 - Reduce the number of City residents and workers who smoke

- Engage with local communities (hard to reach cohorts)
- Engage with local schools and students
- Run various campaigns within the City of London

In response to a query from Members, the Committee noted that the Westminster Drugs project ran alcohol, tobacco and drug campaigns within the City of London. Members agreed that these campaigns were very helpful and businesses should be encouraged to make their staff aware of the work done by the Westminster Drugs Project.

Resolved – that the presentation be received.

6. INCOME GENERATION - REPORT OF A CROSS-CUTTING SERVICE BASED REVIEW

The Committee were informed that a cross-cutting review of the potential for the City Corporation to exploit new sources of income was commissioned as part of the Service Based Review programme. The review was undertaken from April - September 2015, with a final report cleared by the Chief Officers Summit Group in January 2016.

Members noted that the review found that there were:

- Opportunities to increase certain fees and charges to bring income into greater alignment with costs, in line with the approach taken in London local authorities;
- Opportunities to drive increased income from a more entrepreneurial approach in certain areas;
- Limited scope to increase revenues from public sector grants
- Potential opportunities to unlock increased corporate sponsorship and private giving to the benefit of the City's cultural and artistic institutions by taking a more co-ordinated approach.

Resolved – that Members supported the detailed recommendation that the Department of Community & Children's Services lead the preparation of a business case presenting options, costs, resources, risks and timetables for establishing the commercial expansion of central support services tied to the expansion of academy schools over the next one to three years.

7. STUDY PANEL: THE CITY'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING EMPLOYABILITY AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN LONDON

The Committee received a report from the Director of Economic Development informing Members that the City Corporation had a broad programme supporting young Londoners into work, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, and many City businesses and civic organisations (including Livery Companies and trade bodies) were also active in this area. Members noted that there was scope to learn from 'what works' to improve the effectiveness of the City's collective efforts.

Members noted that the Study's key outcome was a set of 'guiding principles' to steer future activity:

- a) 'Walk the talk' – ensure individual organisations' own employment/recruitment practices are exemplary;
- b) 'Target support where it is needed' – both on specific groups and geographies;
- c) 'Collaborate' – work with expert organisations;
- d) 'Small and local' – focus on quality over quantity;
- e) 'Monitor and evaluate' – Measure impact and learn from experience.

Members noted that a report setting out these 'guiding principles' was launched at an event at Guildhall on 21 March 2016.

Resolved – that the report be received.

8. **DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE CITY CORPORATION'S WORK ON EMPLOYABILITY**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Economic Development informing Members that work had taken place to develop a headline 'outcomes framework' to help connect City opportunities with the talent of Londoners to reinforce City competitiveness and support London's communities.

Development of this framework had drawn on the recent work of a senior, cross sector Study Panel into employability among young Londoners, co-chaired by Alderman and Sheriff Bowman; input from a senior Officer group; and Dame Fiona Woolf's 'Power of Diversity' initiative.

Members noted that using the City's unique position in this way, Officers could work more strategically and leverage the potential of the City to have a much greater impact on employability in London. Members said that that City Corporation also had a duty to provide for looked after children and young people from low income families in the City; widening access to low-skilled jobs and providing more support to prepare Londoners for the job market would enable to City to work more strategically when assisting local vulnerable children and young people.

In response to a query regarding apprenticeships, the Committee noted that a report would be submitted regarding the Corporations approach to the new apprenticeship target and levy to the July Committee meeting.

Resolved – that the report be received.

9. **COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN: QUARTER 3 UPDATE**

The Committee received the Business Plan and progress made during Quarter 3 (Q3 – October to December 2015) against the refreshed 2015–17 Community and Children's Services Business Plan. It showed what has been achieved and the progress made against the five departmental strategic aims:

- Safeguarding and early help
- Health and wellbeing
- Education and employability
- Homes and communities

- Efficiency and effectiveness.

Departmental performance and progress for Q3 are overall good with some areas of outstanding performance. Seven performance indicators for this quarter were achieved or exceeded and four were within the tolerance of -10% of the set target. Two indicators have a red RAG status, below the tolerance of -10% of the set target. Four indicators do not report performance during Q3 as they are annual or termly indicators.

Resolved – that the report be received.

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

A Member informed the Committee that there would be an event hosted by the GLA on 23rd April for 16-25 year olds regarding what they viewed to be their identity. Views around housing, education and leisure opportunities would be collated.

In response to a query regarding Mais House, the Committee were informed that report would be submitted to the next Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee regarding the decant policy. Officers were commended on the consultation process which had been carried out in relation to the development of Mais House.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The Committee were asked to consider one item of urgent business in relation to the HRA gas supply contract. On 1st October 2006, the City of London entered into a contract with Planned Maintenance Engineering (now Carillion Services) to provide Mechanical and Gas Maintenance Services to the City's housing stock. The contract was based on an initial 5 year term followed by two further 5 year terms subject to agreement by both parties. The third 5 year term was due to commence on 1st April 2016 and would expire on 30th September 2021

Discussions ensued regarding the timing of the report. Members queried why contract was being considered by the Committee now when the realignment had come to light six months ago. Officers stated that Carillion had requested a Deed of Variation to the contract to extend the contract by only one year; this was based on their realignment of domestic gas business activities. Members agreed that although this was a sensible way forward now, the search for new contractors should begin soon to ensure the Committee was not put in this position again.

Resolved – that the following be agreed:

1. That the City Solicitor be instructed to issue a Deed of Variation to extend the contract for one year only.
2. Officers be instructed to liaise with City Procurement to commence the procurement process for the letting of a new contract with effect from 1st April 2017.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved - It was agreed 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.

13. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

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

14. SUPPORT FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF SYRIAN REFUGEES

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

15. POTENTIAL VENUES FOR THE INITIAL RELOCATION OF ADULT SKILLS AND EDUCATION SERVICES (ASES)

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

16. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SOCIAL HOUSING - GATEWAY 3/4 (OUTLINE OPTIONS APPRAISAL)

This report was withdrawn prior to the meeting by the Chairman and Director of Community and Children's Services.

17. DELIVERY OF NEW HOMES - OUTCOME OF FEASIBILITY STUDY AND NEXT STEPS

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

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 1:00pm

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Natasha Dogra tel. no.: 020 7332 1434
Natasha.Dogra@cityoflondon.gov.uk**