

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 9 September 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Friday, 9 September 2016 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Dhruv Patel (Chairman)	Barbara Newman
Randall Anderson	Deputy Joyce Nash
Deputy John Barker	Emma Price
Revd Dr William Campbell-Taylor	Delis Regis
Deputy Billy Dove	Virginia Rounding
John Fletcher	Philip Woodhouse
Deputy Bill Fraser	James de Sausmarez
Marianne Fredericks	Alderman Robert Howard
Alderman David Graves	Deputy Robert Merrett
Deputy the Revd Stephen Haines	Angela Starling
Ann Holmes	Alex Bain-Stewart
Deputy Henry Jones	Chris Punter
Alderman Sir Paul Judge	Keith Bottomley
Professor John Lumley	
Deputy Catherine McGuinness	

Officers:

Natasha Dogra	-	Town Clerk's Department
Neal Hounsell	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Simon Cribbens	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Chris Pelham	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Jacquie Campbell	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Sarah Greenwood	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Mike Kettle	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Mark Jarvis	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Adam Johnstone	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Monica Patel	-	Community & Children's Services Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Gareth Moore, William Campbell Taylor, Mark Wheatley, Deputy Elizabeth Rogula and Laura Jorgensen.

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

Deputy Henry Jones declared an interest in item 17 – the conversion of up to nine podium level shop unites for residential use on the Middlesex Street estate – as he was a leaseholder.

3. **MINUTES**

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

Matters Arising

In response to a query regarding the use of suicide prevention signs along bridges, Members were informed that planning agreement was being sought from the local authorities to allow the City to erect the signs along other London bridges.

4. **APPOINTMENT OF FOUR MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE EDUCATION CHARITY SUB COMMITTEE**

The Committee were invited to appoint four Members to serve on the Education Charity Sub Committee.

Resolved – that the following Members be appointed:

- Ann Holmes
- Philip Woodhouse
- John Fletcher
- Bill Fraser

5. **PRESENTATION: CITY OF LONDON REGISTRATION SERVICE, ISLINGTON**

The Committee received a presentation regarding the City of London Registration Service. Members were informed that during 2015/16 421 death registrations, 171 marriages & civil partnerships were registered with the Islington service. 96% of deaths were registered within 5 days. Next day appointments were available for deaths and statutory notices of marriage & civil partnership. 75% of customers booked appointments online and Members noted that ceremonies were marketed through the 'Say I Do' website.

In response to a query, Members noted that an on-call service was provided on weekends to ensure that deaths which took place over the weekend could be registered to allow religious customs to be carried out in line with the religious beliefs of the family.

Resolved – that the presentation be received.

6. **COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN: QUARTER 1 UPDATE**

Members noted the progress made during Quarter 1 (Q1 – April to June 2016) against the refreshed 2015–17 Community and Children's Services Business Plan. Members noted that the five departmental strategic aims were:

- Safeguarding and early help
- Health and wellbeing
- Education and employability
- Homes and communities
- Efficiency and effectiveness.

At the end of the reporting period, 14 performance indicators were achieved or exceeded and two were within the tolerance of -10% of the set target. Three

indicators were below the tolerance of -10% of the set target. Five indicators will not be available until Quarter 2 as they are linked to education performance and an annual housing satisfaction survey.

In response to a query regarding Mais House, Officers agreed to send the Member update reports which had been considered by the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee.

Members considered the City's contract with Fusion and noted that although their income at the Golden Lane Estate had not been as expected, the City held a fixed payment with the company which was not dependent on their income. The City was however party to a shared profit agreement which would be affected if the company did not perform very well. Members agreed that Fusion was a nationwide chain who would not be severely impacted by a fall in profits at a relatively small facility.

Resolved – that the update be received.

7. HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES

Members noted that this item was withdrawn from the agenda, as the Committee had considered it at their meeting in July 2016.

8. TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION ALLOCATION POLICY

The City of London Corporation had a duty to secure temporary accommodation for people who apply to it as homeless. Due to increasing numbers of applicants and greater difficulties in securing accommodation within Greater London, most London local authorities have sought accommodation outside their boundaries and many have accommodated applicants some distance outside the capital.

The Supreme Court had urged each local authority to adopt a policy, approved by Members, for procuring sufficient units of temporary accommodation and for allocating them to homeless applicants.

Resolved – that Members approved the Temporary Accommodation Allocation Policy.

9. COMMISSIONING PROSPECTUS, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Commissioning Team had produced a prospectus which set out the City of London Corporation's vision and commitment for commissioning services for children and young people. Through this document, the Department of Community and Children's Services would strengthen the commissioning arrangements for children and young people.

The Department of Community and Children's Services had a combination of inhouse, spot-purchased and commissioned services. The prospectus set out to the market the pragmatic approach to commissioning that was taken to ensure that the processes best fit the scale of service required and do not discourage potential providers from wanting to work in partnership with the City.

The commissioning prospectus aimed to inform residents, colleagues, Members and our current and potential service providers of the City of London Corporation's commissioning approach and position, and the opportunities that this provides.

It was proposed that versions of the prospectus were also produced for Adults Social Care and Housing and Neighbourhoods.

Resolved – that the update be received.

10. HEATING AND HOT WATER EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT - GOLDEN LANE ESTATE

The Gateway 3/4 report concerning the replacement of the heating and hot water equipment at Golden Lane Estate was approved by the Community and Children's Services Committee on 10 July 2015 and by the Projects Sub Committee on 21 July 2015. Due to the listed status of Crescent House and Cullum Welch House, and the complexities around the planning arrangements, Officers sought approval to separate these two buildings into a separate project, so that we can progress the work to the remaining properties on the estate.

The current situation, with the requirement for more detailed flue design proposals at Crescent House and Cullum Welch House, was delaying the specification and tendering processes for the remaining properties on the Golden Lane Estate, and poses a further risk of additional costs associated with reactive replacements of any boilers that fail in the interim. If viable options were not agreed for Crescent House and Cullum Welch House, it may result in having to submit a formal planning application, which could further impact project timescales.

To proceed with the specification and tendering process for all of the remaining properties on the estate, and to treat Crescent House and Cullum Welch House as a separate project while we explore solutions around the flue designs that will comply with planning and legislative requirements.

Resolved – That following decisions were taken by Committee Members:

1. That approval is given to separate Crescent House and Cullum Welch House into a separate project, for which a separate Gateway 5 report will be submitted at a future date.
2. To note that the tendering and specification process for the remaining properties will proceed as planned and that a separate Gateway 5 report will be submitted accordingly.
3. That approval is given to split the approved Resources Required to Reach Next Gateway accordingly, as per the apportioned costs above (namely that £15,448 will be apportioned to Crescent House and Cullum Welch House and that £21,552 will be apportioned to the remaining blocks).

11. SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMISSION

The City of London Corporation had identified the reduction of social isolation and

loneliness as a strategic priority. Research from Goldsmiths University has provided valuable insights into social isolation within the City of London and has also suggested areas where extra investigation could prove beneficial.

It was proposed that a Social Wellbeing Commission should be established to investigate these areas further, hearing evidence from a range of expert witnesses including residents, academics, other local authorities and the voluntary sector. The evidence heard will be used to refine the City Corporation's Social Wellbeing Strategy and to produce guidance which can be shared with other commissioning authorities as well as informing the national policy debate.

Discussions ensued regarding the usefulness of the exercise, with Members agreeing that although they knew a large number of their residents it was not always possible to speak to all of their residents about any issues they were facing. Members agreed that in principle the consultation would be useful however the Committee felt that there was a need to clearly identify the scope, cost and methodology of the consultation. Officers agreed to submit a paper reviewing the scope and title of the group to the October Committee meeting.

Resolved – that Members approved the establishment of a Social Wellbeing Commission.

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

In response to a query, Members were informed that two Syrian refugee families had been accommodated in the City. Specialist organisations were working to provide the necessary guidance to both families.

A Member queried whether additional locations in the City could be made available as wedding venues. The Director informed Members that this was currently being investigated.

The Committee were informed about a number of community events that had recently been held in the Portsoken ward. Members noted that the events had been very well attended and enjoyed by the community.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved - 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.

15. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

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

16. **WAIVER OF PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS TO ENABLE A CONTINUATION OF CONTRACT**
The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
17. **GATEWAY 1 PROJECT PROPOSAL: PHASE I, CONVERSION OF UP TO NINE PODIUM-LEVEL SHOP UNITS FOR RESIDENTIAL USE ON THE MIDDLESEX STREET ESTATE**
The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
18. **PRESSURES ON THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT**
The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
19. **UPDATE ON ROUGH SLEEPERS**
The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
20. **CITY OF LONDON REGISTRATION SERVICE CONTRACT**
The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
21. **SPITALFIELDS FLATS**
The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
22. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.
23. **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 time not specified

Chairman

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