

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 14 July 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Friday, 14 July 2017 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Dhruv Patel (Chairman)	The Lord Mountevans
Randall Anderson (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy Joyce Nash
Tom Anderson	Barbara Newman
Matthew Bell	Susan Pearson
Peter Bennett	William Pimlott
Richard Crossan	Deputy Elizabeth Rogula
James de Sausmarez	Pooja Suri Tank
Mary Durcan	Deputy John Tomlinson
Marianne Fredericks	Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Prem Goyal	George Abrahams
Alderman David Graves	Mark Bostock
Deputy the Revd Stephen Haines	
Deputy Catherine McGuinness	
Angus Knowles-Cutler	

Officers:

Paul Murtagh	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Mark Lowman	-	City Surveyor's Department
Jacquie Campbell	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Natasha Dogra	-	Town Clerk's Department
Chris Pelham	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Mike Kettle	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Neal Hounsell	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Gerald Mehrtens	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Mark Jarvis	-	Chamberlain's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Rehana Ameer, John Fletcher, Caroline Haines, Alderman Robert Howard, Deputy Henry Jones, Henrika Priest, Jason Pritchard, Ruby Sayed, Mark Wheatley and Matt Piper.

It was noted that John Fletcher, Deputy Henry Jones and Jason Pritchard were attending the funeral of a local resident.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MINUTES**

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

It was noted that Ruby Sayed had been appointed as the Safeguarding Lead Member and Marianne Fredericks had been appointed as the Adult Safeguarding Lead Member.

4. **PRESENTATION: LEISURE CENTRE AND SPORT DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

The Committee received a presentation from Fusion Lifestyle regarding leisure centre and sports development. Members noted that for Fusion Lifestyle total income was down by 19% year on year. Total participation was down by 17% year on year. As for Golden Lane Sport & Fitness participation was down by 17% year on year whilst membership line was down by 6% year on year. This has happened due to the increased competition in the area from the City University and the gym; this made it difficult to attract new members in a competitive market. Another reason was that sports hall floor affected participation for badminton schools and junior activities such as indoor tennis and gymnastics. This equates to a £12,000 reduction in income based on June to December year on year.

For Golden Lane sport & Fitness their actual income was £674,000 (down by 15%) whilst the reported figure was £649,000 (down by 19%). In terms of participation for Golden lane & Fitness the projected actual attendance was 98,595 compared to the reported figure of 79,933. However, Fusion are doing all they can to improve their performance, for example Fusion have installed 16 new spin bikes in February 2017, they have also launched an app in May 2016, developed the swimming school to reach capacity and also increasing group exercise programme.

Fusion has projected how their improvements in performance will affect the participation and income of Fusion leisure centres. In terms of income, they expect a 1% growth in income year on year, also a grow membership by 1.5% year on year. In terms of participation, they expect an increase of 1% in overall participation (80,522), also an increase in target group participation by 2% year on year (50,846)

Fusion have been engaged in increasing sports development through community engagement by the availability of after school clubs which include 22 sessions across 9 local schools. They have also included a swim school which they have a target to grow by 10%. Fusion have organised a variety of events to increase sports development, there has been London Youth Games which they have achieved a Gold medal in swimming and top 5 finish in Tennis. Fusion also plans to introduce projects such as City Of London Mini Olympic Provision. £225,000 bid has been submitted to deliver a football tournament (October 2017) and an Athletics (May 2018).

In order to ensure the project is sustainable Fusion has recommended transferring all members to direct debit members, this would lead to increase

monthly direct debit fees from £2.08 to £2.50. Fusion have recommended this change as there would be a more realistic picture of active members and ease of members to cancel with illness or holiday periods. This would benefit Fusion in many ways such as better management and more realistic picture of active members.

In response to a question from a member relating to the introduction of a 'young' plan which has an appealing price plan aimed at those aged 25 years of and under, which could potentially entice users and increase participation, members were informed that this question would be taken into consideration and fed back to the committee.

In response to a question from a member relating to customer engagement and whether Fusion Lifestyle had sought the views of its customers, members were informed that there is a stakeholder engagement plan in place which liaises with service users and seeks their views on services offered. The feedback received is reviewed and monitored on a regular basis.

In response to a question from a member as to how the services offered by Fusion Lifestyle compare with the costs of services provided by other leisure centres, members were informed that the costs of services are higher, as Fusion Lifestyle pays its staff the London living wage. In addition, the swimming pool is costs are higher due to other associated costs and having a lifeguard on site during the swimming pool opening hours.

In response to a question from a member as to why the repairs of the sports hall and the ladies cubicles took up to a period of six months before any action was taken, members were informed that this was partially due to liaising with the Insurance provider. A detailed overview can be provided. In relation to the repairs of the ladies cubicles, it was acknowledged that the repairs took longer than usual. However, members were informed that there is now a new general manager who ensures that repairs are completed in adequate time.

In response to a question from a member regarding the accounts, the allocation of costs and overheads, members were informed that the monthly reports of accounts is sent to the Corporation of London and includes detailed breakdown of all allocation of costs and overheads.

Resolved – that Members received the presentation.

5. **FIRE SAFETY IN THE CITY'S RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS**

Members noted the report of the Director of Community and Childrens Services. In addition it noted the amended and recirculated Appendix A in relation to the City of London Residential Blocks with four of more floors.

Officers were commended for their hard work and efforts during this difficult period.

In response to a question from a member relating to issues about rubbish being placed outside of estate buildings, and the confusion surrounding whether

individuals should stay inside their homes or wait for the fire brigade, members were informed that FAQ sheets had been circulated to all estates and webpages providing key information were also available.

In response to a question from a member as to whether the risk assessment icon could be placed on websites for reassurance, members were informed that this had been actioned.

In response to a question from a member as to how confident officers were that the contractors hired to carry out works within estates were competent, members were informed that the contractors went through a stringent procurement and tendering process. The City of London Corporation is confident in the contractors chosen.

In response to a question from a member as to whether there was a timetable available of when works relating to the installation of sprinklers and appropriate fire doors would be undertaken, members were informed that a meeting is scheduled to take place with the consultants on Monday 17 July. It is anticipated that by September/October, a feasibility study on the sprinkler system should have been conducted which will inform the steps moving forward. In relation to the Fire doors, it was noted that this would cost in the region of £3 - £5 million pounds. It was noted that a systematic approach is being used to complete works and therefore it is difficult to give a time estimate on the works due to be undertaken.

In response to a question from a member as to whether work on estates should be put on hold temporarily whilst they await the outcome of the Grenfell report and the reasons for the fire, members were informed that there are pressure issues on Great Arthur House which need auctioning irrespective of the outcome of the fire at Grenfell.

Resolved that:-

- (a) Fire risk recommendations are brought to future meetings

6. REVENUE OUTTURN 2016/17 - COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Member received the report which compared the 2016/17 revenue outturn for the non-Housing Revenue Account (HRA) services overseen by your Committee with the final agreed budget for the year. The Director of Community and Children's Services local risk budget was underspent by £16,000 with an overspend on all risks of £17,000.

The Director of Community and Children's Services is proposing to carry forward

£16,000 of his local risk underspend for identified purposes of this Committee. These proposals will be considered by the Chamberlain in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee and, if agreed, will be added to the Director's budgets for 2017/18.

Resolved – that Member received the report.

7. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - OUTTURN 2016/17

The Committee noted the outturn for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) in 2016/17 with the final agreed budget for the year.

- The total net transfer from reserves for the year was £1.963m, whereas the final agreed budget assumed £0.236m, this was mainly a result of a £2.0m higher than budgeted transfer to the Major Repairs Reserve (MRR) to fund increased capital expenditure expected in 2017/18. Revenue Reserves ended the year with a balance of £8.139m.
- The Major Repairs Reserve ended the year with a balance of £6.497m, £2.712 more than expected, mainly due to the increased transfer from the Revenue reserves of £2.0m and £0.7m lower capital expenditure.

Members were informed that a bid had been made to cover all schemes. As a result, the City of London Corporation were successful in winning £14.6 million which will be put towards eight schemes.

Resolved – that Members received the report.

8. HOMELESSNESS BUDGET PROPOSALS

The City of London Corporation is likely to incur increased costs in fulfilling its statutory duty to assist some homeless households. It is also experiencing a significantly increased level and complexity of rough sleeping, to which its current level of service is unable to fully respond.

The paper sets out the forecast increase in the cost of meeting these demands and a range of additional specialist services to tackle them (budgeted at £427,000). The Corporation seeks Members' approval for this budget.

It was pointed out to members that the recommendation for 2017/18 should read £195.5k.

In response to a question from a member as to whether there were targeted accommodation for women only, Members were informed that the resources will be used to tailor the services required.

Resolved that Members approve the increase in 2017/18 of £195,500 and a permanent increase in the baseline budget of £427,000 in subsequent years.

9. PORTSOKEN PAVILION/ ALDGATE SQUARE UPDATE

Members noted that the Aldgate Square development is a major public realm project, managed by the Department of Built Environment. A Pavilion is included in the project, from which a café will operate. In 2015 Members agreed that the Pavilion should be operated by a social enterprise, commissioned by Community and Children's Services. City Surveyors have managed the construction of the Pavilion. In September 2015 Community and Children's Services Committee awarded the contract to operate the Pavilion to Kahaila.

The Pavilion was originally scheduled to open in Autumn 2016. However in October 2016 Community and Children's Services Committee were informed of significant delays in the completion of the construction of the Pavilion, until Autumn 2017, and agreed to offer a one year rental contract to Kahaila in temporary premises at 6 Harrow Place to ensure a service was being provided in the local area.

In January 2017 Community and Children's Service Committee were informed that the anticipated completion date for both the Pavilion and the Square was the end of 2017.

In September and October 2016 Streets and Walkways Sub Committee agreed a split reporting structure where the City Surveyor reported on the specifics of the Pavilion and the Director of Built Environment reported on the overall project.

For Community and Children's Services Committee, whose main interest is the management of the Pavilion, once it is open, the key issue is that the completion of the Pavilion is still scheduled to take place by the end of 2017. However the completion of Aldgate Square is now scheduled for March 2018 so earlier access to the Pavilion may have to be facilitated by a temporary footway as the finished surface surrounding the Pavilion may not be constructed by the time it opens.

Resolved – that the report be received.

10. **CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION'S APPRENTICESHIPS PROGRAMME**

Members noted that the City of London Corporation confirmed its commitment to delivering 100 apprenticeships across its departments in 2017/18. This level will be maintained each year. This report provides an update on progress to meet that commitment. Following a departmental internal skills audit which took place during autumn 2016, COLC managers identified their apprenticeship needs. The recruitment of the first of four annual cohorts was completed in April/May 2017. The response to the marketing and promotional campaign has exceeded our expectations. The service received approximately 800 applicants for a total of 39 apprenticeships. Of these, 29 positions have been filled in the first cohort and 10 positions have been extended into the second cohort.

The first cohort of new apprentices attended an induction session at Guildhall in June 2017. The marketing campaign for the second cohort of 43 apprentices will focus strongly on school leavers in summer 2017. The campaign is currently underway.

Resolved – that the report be received.

11. **JOINT HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

Member received the *City of London Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan* for information. The Strategy sets out the City of London Health and Wellbeing Board's commitment to improving the health of City residents, workers and rough sleepers against five key priorities. These are:

- Priority 1: Good mental health for all
- Priority 2: A healthy urban environment
- Priority 3: Effective health and social care integration
- Priority 4: Children have the best start in life
- Priority 5: Promoting healthy behaviours.

Resolved – that Members approved the Action Plan.

12. REVISED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE CITY EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND AND THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION COMBINED EDUCATION CHARITY

In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the Education Charity Sub (Education Board) Committee has reviewed the eligibility criteria for the City Educational Trust Fund (Charity Number 290840) and the City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (Charity Number 312836) (the Charities) and recommends the revised eligibility criteria for the two Charities. The new eligibility criteria for the Charities aim to streamline the assessment process, reduce costs of charity administration and maximise expenditure of funds to further the Charities' aims.

Resolved – that Members of the Community & Children's Services Committee are

- Consider the amended eligibility criteria for the Charities.

Members of the Education Board are asked to:

- Approve the amended eligibility criteria for the Charities; and
- Approve the dates for the next deadline of the Education & Employment theme of the Central Grants Programme.

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

There were no questions.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

Middlesex Street Development Working Group

Members received a paper which sets out the history of the working group. The recommendations were agreed. Further, it was noted that Randall Anderson, Prem Goyal, and Peter Bennett would sit as members on the group.

Resolved that:-

Members agreed to rename the group the Middlesex Street Development Working Group.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

MOTION – 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 I of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

The meeting ended at 1.00 pm

Chairman

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