

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 10 July 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Friday, 10 July 2015 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Dhruv Patel (Chairman)	Alderman Sir Paul Judge
Gareth Moore (Deputy Chairman)	Professor John Lumley
Randall Anderson	Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Deputy John Barker	Barbara Newman
Deputy Billy Dove	Deputy Joyce Nash
Revd Dr Martin Dudley	Chris Punter
John Fletcher	Delis Regis
Deputy Bill Fraser	Elizabeth Rogula
Marianne Fredericks	Michael Welbank
Alderman David Graves	Mark Wheatley
Deputy the Revd Stephen Haines	Philip Woodhouse
Ann Holmes	Laura Jørgensen

Officers:

Susan Attard	Deputy Town Clerk
Natasha Dogra	Town Clerk's Department
James Goodsell	Town Clerk's Department
Paula Wilkinson	Town Clerk's Department
Ade Adetosoye	Director, Community and Children's Services
Neal Hounsell	Department of Community and Children's Services
Jacquie Campbell	Department of Community and Children's Services
Gerald Mehrtens	Department of Community and Children's Services
Sarah Greenwood	Department of Community and Children's Services
Lorna Corbin	Department of Community and Children's Services
Mike Saunders	Department of Community and Children's Services
Amy Carter	Department of Community and Children's Services
Mark Jarvis	Chamberlain's Department
Paul Chadha	Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Karen McHugh	Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Revd Dr William Campbell Taylor, Emma Edhem, Deputy Henry Jones and James Tumbridge.

Resolved - it was proposed that the Committee Clerk consult the Remembrancer regarding committee room bookings to ensure that this Committee was allocated both committee rooms 3 and 4 for all future meetings. The motion was seconded and agreed unanimously.

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

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

3. **MINUTES**

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

Matters Arising:

London Youth Games

Members were informed that there had been an increase in participation in the London Youth Games and the event had been very well attended.

Tenancy and Rents Policy

Officers informed Members that the Chancellor's recent Budget announcement would significantly affect a number of areas of social housing, notably a cap on welfare benefits.

Sir John Cass Tripartite Expansion

The Committee Clerk tabled a letter that had been sent to the Chairman by the Foundation dated 6th July 2015. The Committee noted that they had all been copied into an email sent to the Director of Community and Children's Services from the Foundation; hard copies of this letter were also made available at the meeting.

The Chairman informed Members that on 2nd July a Tripartite meeting was held with the Governing body of the school and the Foundation invited as usual. Members were further informed that the Foundation declined to attend with the general reason given was that they did not believe a meeting would be productive. Members of the Committee conveyed deep-felt concerns over the Foundation's non-attendance.

Members were informed that the matter was now being investigated by the Comptroller and City Solicitor. The Chairman said that he and other Members including the Chief Commoner Billy Dove, Deputy Henry Jones and John Fletcher had attended the tripartite meetings; the Foundation gave no indication in any of those meetings that their agreement to school expansion would not be forthcoming. The Foundation gave their in principle agreement in writing. Members felt that a full and final decision of objection to school expansion, with no discussion or coming round the table to address any of their concerns did constitute a reversal.

Members agreed that as the matter was now going through a legal process it must run its course.

Wardmote Resolutions

The Committee received the following wardmote resolutions from the Town Clerk:

From the Ward of Portsoken (i)

“The residents of the Portsoken Ward are becoming increasingly concerned about the rough sleeper problems that need to be urgently addressed. The residents of the Portsoken Ward request that the Community and Children’s Services Committee investigate the issues urgently and take positive and immediate action with a view to addressing the issues.”

Officers informed Members that a working party had been formed of Members and Officers to investigate further ways in which rough sleeping could be tackled in the City. Officers would report the progress made to the Committee later in the year.

From the Ward of Portsoken (ii)

“The residents of the Portsoken Ward are becoming increasingly concerned about the increase in rent and the aggressive approach shown by the City Surveyor’s Department and the lack of consideration given by the City Corporation to the mix of shop units to ensure that they are compatible with a predominantly residential community.”

Officers informed Members that they were working with colleagues in the City Surveyor’s department to resolve this matter and investigate opportunities for the configuration of the retail rental units. Members noted that the resolution referred to retail units only. Officers agreed to provide the Committee with an update later in the year.

4. PRESENTATION: CITY GATEWAY

The Committee received a presentation regarding City Gateway from Mr Robert Stanex, Youth Work Manager, Ms Hiliary Walker, Participation Manager and Miss Lulu Watuta, Chair of the City Youth Forum. Members noted that the key achievements of the past year were:

- Election of Chair of City Youth Forum
- Launch of CiCC (Children in Care Council)
- Launch of City Youth Forum
- HOPE Street Dance Crew
- Outward Bound
- Green Box Redevelopment
- Young Leaders

City Gateway also set out some of the challenges they had faced and the plans for the forthcoming year.

In response to a query from Members, officers from City Gateway explained that whilst they encouraged girls to take part in events and activities it was proving difficult to engage with girls aged 11-19 from the Bangladeshi community. Officers said they were investigating ways in which they would engage further with this group by contacting the families of the girls and informing their fathers of the advantages of taking part in the communal activities.

Members said that Officers may wish to contact the Museum of London to discuss the Hard Education project to discuss participation from the City youth services.

Members thanked Lulu for attending the meeting and the Chief Commoner informed the Committee that he and Lulu had attended the Lord Mayor's visit to West Ham Park together in May 2015. Despite the bad weather, the Members and Officers had enjoyed their day in West Ham Park and Lulu had had the opportunity to meet the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress.

Resolved – that the update be received.

5. **GRANTS REVIEW**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which informed Members of the cross-cutting review of the grant giving activities of the City Corporation. The objectives of the review were to identify the grants programmes which are offered by the City Corporation, to suggest how to improve value for money and drive up impact.

In response to a query, Members noted that the review identified approximately £13.2m awarded in 2013/14 by the City Corporation across 15 different grants programmes, although by far the largest programme was the City Bridge Trust. The review concluded that there was no consistent approach across the City Corporation to governing or managing disbursements. Officers informed Members that this potentially exposed the City Corporation to financial, organisational and reputational risks.

The Committee received a resolution from the Education Board and considered the most appropriate means of joint governance, with the Education Board, of the Combined Education Charity and City Educational Trust Fund.

The Deputy Town Clerk agreed to circulate information regarding the amount spent on educational bursaries in 2013/14 to Members via email after the meeting.

RESOLVED – that the Community and Children's Services Committee:

- Agreed to take on governance of the Combined Relief of Poverty charity (from Finance Grants Sub Committee) and of the various 'poverty relief' charities proposed for merger; and
- Agreed to review with the Education Board the most appropriate governance arrangements for the Combined Education Charity and City Educational Trust Fund (proposed for transfer from Finance Grants Sub Committee).

6. **REVENUE OUTTURN 2014/15 - COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE (CITY FUND)**

The Committee received the report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which informed Members of the 2014/15 revenue outturn for the non-Housing Revenue Account (HRA) services overseen by the Committee with the final agreed budget for the year.

Members noted that the Director of Community and Children's Services local risk budget was underspent by £346,000 with an underspend on all risks of £44,000. There was an overspend on recharges of £193,000. The Director was proposing to carry forward £340,000 of his local risk underspend for identified purposes of this Committee. These proposals would be considered by the Chamberlain in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee and, if agreed, would be added to the Director's budgets for 2015/16.

Resolved - that the revenue outturn report for 2014/15 be received.

7. THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2015-18

The Committee received the report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which informed Members of the City of London Corporation Children and Young People's Plan 2015–18. Members noted that the plan was shaped through extensive consultation, engagement with and involvement of external agencies and partners, children, young people and their families.

Resolved – that the City of London Corporation Children and Young People's Plan 2015–18 be approved.

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

The Committee received the report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which informed Members about the heating and hot water equipment replacement at the Golden Lane Estate. The Committee was informed that Golden Lane Estate was listed, the majority at Grade II and Crescent House at Grade II. There were 560 properties on the Golden Lane Estate. All of the tenanted properties had individual gas boilers within the property.

Members noted that where boilers were required to be replaced, modern flues and outlet pipes which extend further from opening windows must be installed. For two blocks, this poses a challenge to meet the requirements of this safety legislation and the aesthetic preservation in accordance with the listing. The option of a communal heating system was assessed as part of this project as a potential solution to this problem.

Resolved – that approval be given for £6,330 to progress the Option 2 and approval be given of the current budget estimate of £1,035,000 - £1,243,000

9. SEXUAL HEALTH GUM (GENITO-URINARY MEDICINE) PAYMENT BY RESULTS CONTRACTS

The Committee received the report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which informed Members that from April 2013, local authorities had been mandated to provide comprehensive sexual health services to their residential population. This included open access to genito-urinary medicine (GUM) services, which include outpatient HIV services, HIV testing, specimen

analysis and the dispensing of medication alongside a wider range of sexual health services.

Members were informed that as it was open access, City residents can access GUM services anywhere across the country and the City of London Corporation would be required to pay for it. To date, the City of London Corporation had been working with local authorities across Waltham Forest, Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Newham to negotiate the tariffs and terms for payment with the providers with the highest activity levels for our local authority areas. These negotiations had resulted in savings for each local authority.

Officers informed Members that the majority of local authorities across London are now working together to negotiate tariffs for services across London, and to commission a future Pan London service which represents value for money for all authorities involved.

Resolved – that approval be given for:

- the proposals to continue the Pan London negotiations with GUM providers across London, and involvement in the potential Pan London commissioning of GUM services from 2017; and
- officers to publish default conditions for financial year 2015/16 on the City of London Corporation website for GUM providers cross-charging for GUM services that do not partake in local tariff agreements.

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

There were no questions.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The Committee received the Prevent Strategy 2015/16 which informed Members how the City of London Corporation would fulfil its new duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism introduced within the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Resolved – that the strategy be noted.

12. 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.

13. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

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

14. BIENNIAL UPDATE ON DEPARTMENTAL COMMISSIONING AND CONTRACTS

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

Services.

15. **CAPITAL RECEIPT FROM REDROW - BLAKE TOWER, 2 FANN STREET**

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

16. **SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND TOBACCO CONTROL AWARD**

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

17. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

18. **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 12.50 pm

Chairman

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