

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 24 September 2021

Minutes of the meeting streamed live to 'You Tube':

<https://youtu.be/D2ZKJVeL3Pc>

Recordings will be available for one year from the date of the meeting

N.B. This meeting was held as an informal one, with the views reached by the Committee approved formally by the Town Clerk after the meeting, in accordance with the Court of Common Council's Covid Approval Procedure. This process reflects the current position in respect of the holding of formal Local Authority meetings and the Court's decision of 15 April 2021 to continue with virtual meetings, with formal confirmation of decisions provided through a delegation to the Town Clerk (or his nominated representative) after the informal meeting has taken place and the will of the Committee is known.

Present

Members:

Ruby Sayed (Chairman)	Benjamin Murphy
Randall Anderson (Deputy Chairman)	Susan Pearson
Matthew Bell	William Pimlott
Peter Bennett	Deputy Elizabeth Rogula
Deputy Keith Bottomley	Sir Michael Snyder
Mary Durcan	Mark Wheatley
Helen Fentimen	Deputy Philip Woodhouse
John Fletcher	Dawn Wright
Marianne Fredericks	
Graeme Harrower	
Sheriff Christopher Hayward	
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark	

Officers:

Andrew Carter	- Director of Community and Children's Services
Douglas Trainer	- Deputy Town Clerk
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerk's
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's
Carol Boswarthack	- Community and Children's Services
Simon Cribbens	- Community and Children's Services
Sandra Husbands	- Director of Public Health, City and Hackney
Chris Lovitt	- Deputy Director of Public Health, City and Hackney
Gerald Mehrtens	- Community & Children's Services
Paul Murtagh	- Community & Children's Services
Will Norman	- Community and Children's Services
Chris Pelham	- Community and Children's Services
Paul Murtagh	- Community and Children's Services
Jason Hayes	- Community and Children's Services
Ellie Ward	- Community and Children's Services
Julie Fittock	- City Surveyors'
Ola Obadara	- City Surveyors'
Graeme Low	- City Surveyors'

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from John Absalom, Nicholas Bensted-Smith, Natasha Lloyd Owen and Catherine McGuinness.

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

Susan Pearson declared an interest in respect of items 8 and 22, as she lives on the Golden Lane Estate. Ms Pearson advised that she has a general dispensation to speak but not vote on housing matters.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 9th July 2021 be approved, subject to an amendment recording John Fletcher's apologies for this meeting.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Committee received the Outstanding Actions list. In respect of the forthcoming report on Universal Credit, a Member asked if the report to the November Committee could include statistics from First Love Foundation and Age UK's work on food co-ops.

5. **TO APPOINT 1 OR 2 MEMBERS FROM THE COURT TO THE HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND ALMSHOUSES SUB COMMITTEE**

The Committee noted that this Sub Committee had a considerable workload together with decision making powers. The Chair suggested, therefore, that the Membership be widened to include 1 or 2 additional Members from the whole Court. The Chair of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee particularly welcomed nominations from Members with housing experience.

RESOLVED, that – the Housing Management and Almshouses Committee's Membership be extended to 1 or 2 additional Members from the wider Court of Common Council, to be appointed at the November meeting of the Committee.

6. **HOUSING NET ZERO CARBON ACTION PLAN**

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor in respect of the Housing Net Zero Carbon Action Plan.

The officer advised of an error in the report in that there would be additional revenue or capital spending, but this was highly speculative and further clarification would be provided following the feasibility studies. Following discussions in respect of Options 1 and 2 in the report, it was suggested that a decision be deferred at this stage, as the results of the first round of the carbon reduction grants programme might change the resources available

The officer confirmed that, whilst a steer would be helpful, a decision was not critical at this stage. The Committee agreed unanimously to defer the report.

7. IMPLICATIONS OF FIRE SAFETY ACT 2021

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services and the Chamberlain in respect of the Fire Safety Act 2021. The Committee noted that the Fire Safety Act amends the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and is one of several measures introduced following the 2017 Grenfell fire tragedy.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

8. WINDOWS PROGRAMME AND COMMON PARTS REDECORATIONS - GOLDEN LANE ESTATE: GW3 ISSUE REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the repair and installation of secondary glazing, or replacement of existing single-glazed windows with double-glazed units, and redecoration of internal and external common parts.

Members noted an error in the report in that the amount for acoustics was £21,500 and not £21,000, but this had been reflected in the design fees of 570,000. Members suggested that, going forward, consideration be given to carrying out roofing works on an Estate-wide basis, rather than as individual projects, as this would be more efficient and less disruptive to residents.

RESOLVED, that:

1. The budget for the design team fees be approved; including funding for a Quantity Surveyor, Communications Consultant, planning fees and enhanced advisory fees, enabling works, access to ARUP drawings and additional detailed acoustic surveys.
2. Further staff costs be approved.

9. GOLDEN LANE SPORT AND FITNESS CENTRE – NEW SHORT TERM LEASE

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of a new short-term lease at Golden Lane Sport and Fitness Centre. The Chairman advised that exploration was underway in respect of voucher schemes, to ensure that all residents have access to sports and wellbeing facilities. Further suggestions were welcome from Members, particularly in respect of the East of the City/Portsoken area.

RESOLVED, that – a new short-term lease between the Golden Lane Sport and Fitness Centre with Fusion Lifestyle be approved, with effect from 1 January 2022 until 31 March 2023, and charged at the rate of a peppercorn per annum.

10. **BARBICAN AND COMMUNITY LIBRARIES - LIBRARY STRATEGY**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the Library Strategy. Members noted that the Strategy would run to 2023, in order to align with the Corporate Plan. The Head of Barbican and Community Libraries advised that the Strategy was high level, and aligned with departmental objectives supporting young people, but agreed to check whether this aspect might need strengthening.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

11. **LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM - GATEWAY 2 - PROJECT PROPOSAL**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of an IT system designed to manage the records of the Barbican and Community libraries. Members noted that the Corporate Projects Board had agreed that the project should proceed under delegation, to the Director of Community and Children's Services.

RESOLVED, that - the report be noted.

12. **HOMELESSNESS LINK - IMMIGRATION PLEDGE APPEAL**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which provided Members with an overview of the new Homeless Link Pledge Campaign. Members noted that the campaign is a response to changes made to the Immigration Act in October 2020 and the subsequent code of guidance published by the Home Office.

Members noted that the pledge had the full support of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Committee, at both a political and ethical level. It was suggested that there might be strategic implications in refusing to co-operate with Government, but this could be explored when the resolution was presented to the Policy and Resources Committee.

RESOLVED, that – the immigration pledge appeal be supported and recommended to the Policy and Resources Committee.

13. **BUSINESS PLAN QUARTER 1 - 2021/22**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which set out the progress made during Quarter 1 – April to June 2021 against the 2017–2022 Department of Community and Children's Services (DCCS) Business Plan. It also commented on the Departmental Risk Register.

In response to a question about pathway plans, the Assistant Director confirmed that this was now at 98%, following a revision in data recording. Members noted that this high performance had been consistent over the past few months, and all young people had pathways.

The Director of Public Health (City and Hackney) advised that smoking cessation and weight management were currently 'red' as it been necessary to

recommission the City-based stop smoking offer, as the previous provider had been unable to continue. Members noted that a better uptake was expected, particularly as normality returns after the winter, but officers would continue to monitor the position.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

14. **COVID UPDATE**

The Director of Public Health (City and Hackney) provided an update covering rates in the City, vaccine uptake, the plans for vaccinating 12-15 year olds and administering boosters and flu vaccinations. The Director of Public Health also set out how the team would be supporting the Government's Plans (A) and (B) with strong messaging about continuing to take reasonable precautions.

Members were concerned at the comparatively low vaccination take-up rate in Portsoken, and strongly supported a permanent vaccination centre on the Mansell Street Estate and the Ivy Meeting Room, run by the Guinness Trust, or Aldersgate square, were suggested as potential locations. There were further concerns expressed in that this area of the City was becoming busier, both in respect of commuters and the night time economy, and respiratory viruses always increased in the Winter. Members suggested that engagement with community champions was the best way forward for Portsoken, as evidenced by its success with adult education.

The Director of Public Health advised that a vaccine trailer, and other locations for pop-up centres, had been suggested but failed in terms of the NHS' clinical assessment of premises and logistics. However, they would revisit the above suggestions and, should the venues not be suitable for administering vaccinations, they could be used for face to face Q&A sessions with the local community. The Public Health Team had also made a strong representation to Boots in respect of a second vaccination centre, but they had not been able to provide this. There was a further suggestion in that young people receiving vaccinations could be key in encouraging take up by older family members.

There were further concerns expressed in respect of the relaxation in mask wearing, particularly on public transport and the tube. Members noted that the Government was not minded to introduce a byelaw to enforce this, but the Mayor of London supported it. The Chairman agreed to write to the Mayor of London offering the Committee's support and invited Members to lobby Government through the available channels. The Chair also stressed the importance of strong communications generally about mask wearing in the City's bars and restaurants, as well as on public transport, noting that public confidence about safety would encourage more people back to the City, both for work and recreation.

A Member was aware that Boots at Liverpool Street had run out of lateral flow tests and, whilst these were supplied directly by the DHSC, the Public Health Team might be able to offer temporary stock top-ups, in the event of high demand. The Director of Public Health agreed to liaise with the testing lead and report back to Members. It was also noted that Boots might be low on storage, given this was an area of high footfall.

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

In response to a question about 'Right to Light' repayments in respect of the COLPAI development, Members noted that not all residents had agreed to the terms and universal agreement would be required before payments could be made. The officer agreed to investigate and provide an update on progress before the next meeting. There was a supplementary question as to whether the City Corporation would be prepared to pay interest on the late payments, given this matter has been outstanding for 2 years. The officer agreed to follow up this request but reiterated the need for consistency in payments, noting that some residents, who had initially declined the offer, had since agreed.

The Chair had been notified of 2 questions in advance of the meeting but, as they were likely to raise issues in respect of HR and City's Cash finances, suggested they be taken in non-public. The Town Clerk confirmed that HR and City's Cash matters would be likely to include information exempt under paras 1,2,3 and 4 of the Local Government Act. There was a challenge as to whether public interest would override this but the Chair accepted the advice of the Town Clerk, and the Committee agreed to take the questions in non-public, so as to avoid any risk of straying into the exempt areas set out above.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items.

17. 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 I of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item nos	Paragraph No
19 – 26	3
27	1,2,3 & 4
28	3

18. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED, that – the minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 9th July 2021 be approved.

19. **SUICIDE PREVENTION IN THE CITY OF LONDON**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the Deputy Town Clerk and Chief and Executive.
20. **COMMISSIONING CONTRACTS REGISTER**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
21. **WATER CHARGE REFUNDS SECURE TENANTS**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
22. **WINDOWS PROGRAMME AND COMMON PARTS REDECORATIONS - GOLDEN LANE ESTATE: GW3 ISSUE REPORT - APPENDIX 2**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
23. **ISLEDEN HOUSE INFILL PROJECT - GATEWAY 5 - ISSUES REPORT**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
- At 3.45pm, the Committee agreed to extend the meeting in order to conclude the business on the agenda*
24. **FUTURE PROPOSAL FOR PORTSOKEN PAVILLION**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
25. **MIDDLESEX STREET CAR PARK - GATEWAY 6 - OUTCOME REPORT**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the City Surveyor.
26. **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN**
The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk.
27. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were 2 questions whilst the public were excluded.
28. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
The Chair agreed to accept an urgent item of business whilst the public were excluded.

The meeting ended at 4.15 pm

Chairman

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