

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 20 September 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Friday, 20 September 2024 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Munsur Ali	Alderman Prem Goyal, OBE
Matthew Bell	Deputy Shravan Joshi MBE
Aaron Anthony Jose Hasan D'Souza	Timothy James McNally
Mary Durcan	Deputy Nighat Qureishi
Helen Fentimen OBE JP (Chairman)	Ryan
Deputy John Fletcher	Naresh Hari Sonpar
Dawn Frampton	Jacqui Webster
Steve Goodman OBE	Williams

Officers:

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1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the Deputy Chairman Ruby Sayed, Deputy Philip Woodhouse, Deputy Natasha Lloyd Owen, Anne Corbett, Shannan Bakth and Eamonn Mullally.

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

In respect of item 8, Steeve Goodman OBE declared that he had recently been appointed a trustee to the City of London Academies Trust.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That, the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 4 July 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING:

A statement was provided by the Head of Strategy & Performance relating to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Self Evaluation Framework (SEF) presented at the May 2024 Community and Children's Services Committee meeting.

At the May 2024 Community and Children's Services Committee meeting, the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Self Evaluation Framework was presented.

The Chair of Governors at Aldgate School raised concerns about some data in the report relating to educational attainment at the school.

This has since been updated using data directly from the ASP which was provided by the school, and is published on a DfE website called [Analysing School Performance](#). We now have direct access to this data.

Members should therefore disregard the data included in the SEF presented in May.

An apology has been offered to the school.

Updated tables will be included in the minutes in order that it is recorded and further versions of the SEF will be brought to committee as and when required. The current iteration of the SEF reflects the correct data along with the latest available Key Stage 2 data.

Further to the discussions with the Chair of Governors we will also be adding all source references and the date to any data included.

Tables

KS1 Teacher Assessment % of pupils achieving the expected standard or higher									
	No Special Needs			SEN support			EHCP		
Year	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23
Reading	98%	90%	83%	67%	43%	55%	0%	100%	0%
Writing	94%	90%	83%	50%	43%	55%	0%	100%	0%
Maths	98%	85%	94%	83%	43%	27%	50%	100%	0%

KS1 Teacher Assessment % of pupils achieving the expected standard or higher										
		No Special Needs			SEN support			EHCP		
Subject	Year	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23
Reading	Aldgate School	98%	90%	83%	67%	43%	55%	0%	100%	0%
	National	83%	75%	77%	75%	N/A	N/A	75%	N/A	N/A
	Gap	15%	15%	6%	-8%	N/A	N/A	-75%	N/A	N/A
Writing	Aldgate School	94%	90%	83%	50%	43%	55%	0%	100%	0%
	National	78%	66%	69%	69%	N/A	N/A	69%	N/A	N/A
	Gap	16%	24%	14%	-19%	N/A	N/A	-69%	N/A	N/A
Maths	Aldgate School	98%	85%	94%	83%	43%	27%	50%	100%	0%
	National	84%	75%	77%	76%	N/A	N/A	76%	N/A	N/A
	Gap	14%	10%	17%	7%	N/A	N/A	-26%	N/A	N/A

Please note that for KS1, there were no pupils with EHCPs in 2022/23.

	No Special Needs			SEN Support			EHCP		
Year	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23
Reading	100%	94%	91%	67%	100%	64%	N/A	50%	0%
Writing	100%	94%	93%	56%	86%	64%	N/A	0%	50%
Maths	100%	94%	82%	89%	86%	55%	N/A	50%	50%

		No Special Needs			SEN Support			EHCP		
Subject	Year	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23
Reading	Aldgate School	100%	94%	91%	67%	100%	64%	N/A	50%	0%
	National	81%	84%	82%	73%	44%	45%	73%	16%	18%
	Gap	19%	10%	9%	-6%	66%	19%	N/A	34%	-18%
Writing	Aldgate School	100%	94%	93%	56%	86%	64%	N/A	0%	50%
	National	88%	80%	82%	78%	30%	34%	78%	11%	12%
	Gap	12%	14%	11%	-22%	56%	30%	N/A	-11%	38%
Maths	Aldgate School	100%	94%	82%	89%	86%	55%	N/A	50%	50%
	National	87%	81%	74%	79%	40%	42%	79%	15%	16%
	Gap	13%	13%	8%	10%	46%	13%	N/A	35%	34%

All sources: DfE, Analysing School Performance June 2024

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Committee received an update on outstanding actions.

Window Replacement:

Members requested a full report on the Golden Lane Estate, not just Crescent House, to understand the entire program's progress. This report will likely be presented to the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee.

Financial Support with Major Works:

A paper on financial support for major works will be received in December.

Stronger Communities Annual Report:

Officers have been asked to provide a date for when the Stronger Communities Annual Report will be received. The report was previously received by the Committee earlier in the year, and a presentation was made around the Committee Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund. The next report is anticipated in May or June of the next financial year.

The Stronger Communities Fund has been highlighted as invaluable for community events and bringing the community together.

It was noted that the Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee has encouraged communities to put forward proposals for the fund. The neighbourhood forums, including Aldersgate, Cripplegate, and parts of Farringdon, are working on ideas to be presented.

Member Engagement Housing Estates:

This will be discussed in the next Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee meeting.

5. EXTERNAL APPOINTMENTS FOR THE HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk, concerning the appointment of external Members to the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED – That, Members approve the appointment of the candidate(s) shortlisted for the following terms to the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee:

- a) For a term of two years, James Breed
- b) For a term of two years, Patrick Fowler
- c) For a term of three years, Irmani Smallwood.

6. *REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY POWERS

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk, concerning action taken by the Town Clerk outside of the Committee's meeting scheduled in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 41(a) and (b).

7. *TACKLING THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF ROUGH SLEEPING

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community & Children's Services, concerning work to develop a policy position and operational protocol in relation to rough sleeping in concentrations of tents which have associated anti-social behaviour or detrimental impact on the community.

It was noted that rough sleeping and associated antisocial behaviour has been an ongoing issue in London and the Square Mile. The presence of encampments and tents has raised concerns among community members, businesses, and elected officials. Officers noted the City Corporation has consistently maintained a welfare-focused approach, offering strong support to individuals on the streets. However, some individuals remain service-resistant and prefer to stay on the streets due to economic reasons or personal preference.

Members discussed the need for a clear policy position to address antisocial behaviour associated with rough sleeping. This policy would set the standard

and threshold for using enforcement measures, ensuring a balanced approach that prioritises welfare while addressing community concerns. Enforcement measures, such as public space protection orders, may be considered if there is evidence of harm and impact. These measures should be proportionate and not unnecessarily criminalise individuals.

It was noted that collaboration with neighbouring boroughs is essential to ensure a consistent and effective approach to tackling rough sleeping and associated issues. Members were informed that the Corporation invests heavily in outreach support, accommodation pathways, and assessment centres.

Officers informed Members that a report on the policy position would be brought to the next Committee meeting.

8. ***EDUCATION STRATEGY UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services, concerning an update on the proposed 2024-29 Education Strategy.

It was noted that the strategy had been discussed at the Education Board. Emphasis on supporting children in academies within COLAT, particularly those on free school meals was discussed as was the importance of measuring the impact and outcomes of the strategy.

9. ***THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) PEER REVIEW**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community & Children's Services, concerning the findings of the peer review.

It was noted that the organisation is committed to being a learning organisation and open to challenges to assess strengths and identify areas of development.

A Member raised concerns about the data inaccuracies in the March 2024 report and sought reassurance that the updated data has been circulated to the relevant people. It was confirmed that the data has been updated multiple times as a dynamic document and that peer reviewers worked with the data which is publicly available from the Department for Education.

10. ***LEASEHOLD AND FREEHOLD REFORM ACT 2024**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community & Children's Services, concerning an outline to the changes of the new Leasehold and Freehold Act 2024.

Officers suggested making information known more widely to leaseholders in the form of an update. Members emphasised officers on providing straightforward factual briefings without straying into advisory comments.

11. ***COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES (NON-HOUSING) REVENUE OUTTURN FORECAST AS AT QUARTER 1 2024/25**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services, concerning quarter 1 estimated outturn for the Community & Children's Services budget.

12. ***WARDMOTE UPDATES**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community & Children's Services, concerning and outline on Ward mote updates.

The following points were noted:

- Sprinkler System: A residents association meeting on Middlesex St. discussed the adoption of a mediation policy with tenants who do not want the sprinkler system. This approach has been positively received.
- Golden Lane Project: A full report on the Golden Lane project has been requested to understand delays and assess risks. Increased project capacity and oversight are being implemented to ensure effective delivery.
- Internal Shutters: The commercial team is looking into the insurance implications of having internal shutters. Incremental improvements are expected with the hardware store having internal shutters.

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

There was a question raised by a Member concerning the lack of affordable and accessible swimming facilities in the city and proposed exploring the possibility of offering free swimming services similar to those in neighbouring boroughs like Tower Hamlets and Southwark.

Officers acknowledged the proposal and mentioned that the head of sports strategy and the community sports was investigating and there were plans to discuss it further at the next sports sounding board meeting. Challenges such as the lack of lifeguards at Golden Lane swimming pool and the need for better utilisation of existing facilities, like those at City of London schools, were also discussed.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was one item of urgent business concerning an allocated Members report on Middlesex Street.

The following points were noted:

- Sprinkler System and Parking Management: It was noted that progress on the sprinkler system, was now moving towards mediation rather than confrontation.
- Concerns About the Heating System: A Member highlighted unresolved issues with the new heating system, including the lack of metering and alleged temperature limits. These issues have caused concern among

residents, especially with winter approaching. Officers acknowledged the metering issues and stated that a solution is being worked on. They also addressed concerns about the heating system's upper limit, suggesting that residents were advised on sustainability rather than actual limitations.

15. **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.

16. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That, the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

17. **OUTSTANDING ACTION NON-PUBLIC**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk.

18. ***REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY POWERS**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk.

19. **GOLDEN LANE LEISURE CENTRE - UPDATE**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Executive Director, Community & Children's Services.

20. **YORK WAY ESTATE PROVISION OF SOCIAL HOUSING**

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor.

21. ***CITY OF LONDON PRIMARY ACADEMY ISLINGTON (COLPAI)**

The Committee received a report of the City Surveyor.

22. ***SYDENHAM HILL REDEVELOPMENT, LEWISHAM, SE26 6ND**

The Committee received a report of the City Surveyor.

23. ***HOUSING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS – PROCUREMENT STAGE 1 REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community & Children's Services.

24. ***FINANCE UPDATE AND DRAFT ACCOUNTS FOR CITY OF LONDON COMBINED RELIEF OF POVERTY (CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1073660)**

The Committee received a report of the City Bridge Foundation & Charities Finance Director.

25. **EASTERN BASE MIDDLESEX STREET LONDON E1 7AD**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Community & Children's Services.

26. PROJECT CLOSURES - ALDRSGATE SCHOOL EXTENSION AND MIDDLESEX STREET RETAIL PARK

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk.

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

There were no questions.

28. 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 12.41 pm

Chairman

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