

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
Friday, 30 April 2021

Minutes of the meeting streamed to You Tube:

<https://youtu.be/4JndCQBwNUc>

at 11.00 am

please note this recording will be available for one year from the date of the meeting

Present

Members:

Ruby Sayed (Chairman)	Alderman Gregory Jones QC
Randall Anderson (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy Henry Jones
Rehana Ameer	Alderman Alastair King - <i>in the Chair</i>
Peter Bennett	Alderman Bronek Masojada
Deputy Keith Bottomley	Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Mary Durcan	Dhruv Patel
Alderman Emma Edhem	Susan Pearson
Helen Fentimen	William Pimlott
John Fletcher	Deputy Elizabeth Rogula
Marianne Fredericks	Sir Michael Snyder
Caroline Haines	Mark Wheatley
The Revd Stephen Haines	Dawn Wright
Graeme Harrower	Laura Jørgensen
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark	

Officers:

Andrew Carter	- Director of Community and Children's Services
Dr Sandra Husbands	- Director of Public Health, City and Hackney
Chris Lovitt	- Deputy Director of Public Health
Simon Cribbens	- Community and Children's Services Department
Liam Gillespie	- Community and Children's Services Department
Sarah Greenwood	- Community and Children's Services Department
Michael Gwyther-Jones	- Community and Children's Services Department
Jason Hayes	- Community and Children's Services Department
James Illsley	- Community and Children's Services Department
Stephanie McDonald	- Community and Children's Services Department
Gerald Mehrtens	- Community and Children's Services Department
Paul Murtagh	- Community and Children's Services Department
Chris Pelham	- Community and Children's Services Department
Teresa Shortland	- Community and Children's Services Department
Ellie Ward	- Community and Children's Services Department
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's Department
Andrew Cusack	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Julie Fittock	- City Surveyor's Department
Ola Obadara	- City Surveyor's Department
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerk's Department

It was moved by Sir Michael Snyder, seconded by Jamie Ingham Clark and RESOLVED, that - Alderman Alastair King take the Chair until the new Chairman is elected.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Natasha Lloyd Owen, Nick Benstead Smith, John Absalom and Matthew Bell.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **ORDER OF THE COURT**

The Order of the Court dated 15th April 2021, appointing the Committee and approving its Terms of Reference was received.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED, that - in accordance with Standing Order 29, and being the only Member willing to serve, Ruby Sayed be elected as Chairman for 2021/22.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED, that - In accordance with Standing Order 30, and exercising the right of the immediate past Chairmen, Randall Anderson be elected as Deputy Chairman for 2021/22.

VOTE OF THANKS

It was moved by Alderman Alastair King, Seconded by Caroline Haines and RESOLVED, that - Members of the Community and Children's Services Committee place on record their sincere appreciation to:

RANDALL ANDERSON

for the compassionate, diligent and conciliatory manner in which he has chaired their Committee since 2018.

Randall's term as Chairman has overseen a number of initiatives seeking to place the physical and mental wellbeing of City residents at the forefront; i.e. - the new mental health centre, 2 new community centres, the achievement of outstanding Ofsted ratings for social care and safeguarding, and support of the government's 'Our Turn' Government campaign for asylum seekers. The City's maintained primary school is ranked amongst the top performing in the country.

Working with our partners, Randall's chairmanship has demonstrated excellent co-production in the delivery of services for those needing support with alcohol and drug misuse. A Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee was established, early in Randall's Chairmanship, ensuring that the City's street population have access to permanent pathways into housing and support for substance misuse.

In order to reach all disadvantaged and minority groups, Randall has championed projects such as the 'Decent Homes Standard', Major Works Programme, adult skills and education initiatives and digital inclusion, and the Special Educational Needs (SEND) Strategy for 2020–24, which sets out an ambitious vision for children and young people up to age 25 years. Following the Grenfell fire, various fire safety works to HRA properties have been approved, including the installation of sprinklers in Tower Blocks.

Finally, the committee wishes to place on record its recognition of Randall's commitment, resilience and tenacity during the covid-19 pandemic of 2020-21. As part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, testing centres were established, key services to the most vulnerable were maintained and expanded, record numbers of rough sleepers were provided with accommodation, key infrastructure projects were maintained, a sustainable foodbank was established in the City, digital inclusion was expanded to targeted groups (via the provision of laptops and tackling data poverty), the vital contribution of volunteers recognised and a central focus on continuous improvement maintained.

THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO WISH RANDALL EVERY SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE, noting that the legacy of his Chairmanship will continue to improve the quality of life of the City residents and those on the out of borough estates.

6. **APPOINTMENT OF TWO CO-OPTÉES**

RESOLVED, that - Laura Jorgensen and Matt Piper be appointed as the Committee's two Parent Governors, as set out in the Order of the Court.

7. **APPOINTMENTS TO SUB COMMITTEES**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk, which sought to appoint to the various Boards, Sub Committees and Portfolios. Prior to the meeting, indicative memberships lists had been circulated and the Town Clerk advised that, in the event of ballots being necessary, they would take place immediately after the meeting, with the final appointments being approved under delegated authority by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Committee.

RESOLVED, that:

a) **The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee's Terms of Reference be approved, together with the amendment set out in the report, and the following Members be appointed for 2021/22, together with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee:**

1. Alderman Bronek Masojada - CCS
2. Natasha Lloyd Owen - CCS
3. William Pimlott - CCS
4. Alderman Vincent Keaveny -Court

5. Marianne Fredericks - CCS
6. Benjamin Murphy - CCS
7. Alderman Alison Gowman - Court
8. Helen Fentimen – CCS
9. Mary Durcan - CCS
10. Henrika Priest – Court

- b) **The Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee's Terms of Reference of the be approved, and the following Members be appointed for 2021/22, together with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee.**

1. Caroline Haines
2. William Pimlott
3. Peter Bennett
4. Rev. Stephen Haines
5. John Fletcher
6. Mary Durcan
7. Marianne Fredericks
8. Susan Pearson
9. Jamie Ingham Clark

- c) **The Safeguarding Sub Committee's Terms of Reference be approved, and the following Members be appointed for 2021/22, together with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee.**

It was proposed by Ruby Sayed, seconded by Jamie Ingham Clark and RESOLVED, that – a long standing vacancy on this Sub Committee be advertised to the whole Court:

1. Marianne Fredericks
2. Mary Durcan
3. Susan Pearson
4. Helen Fentimen
5. Elizabeth Rogula

- d). **Randall Anderson be appointed to the Education Board for 2021/22.**
NB. By convention this would be the Chairman, however, as the newly appointed Chairman is already a Member of the Education Board, the Deputy Chairman would represent the Committee on this Board
- e). **The following Members be appointed to the Education Charity Sub Committee (of the Education Board) for 2021/22.**

1. Randall Anderson
2. Ruby Sayed
3. Benjamin Murphy
4. Dawn Wright

f). **The following Members be appointed to the Integrated Commissioning Sub Committee for 2021/22; together with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman:**

1. Marianne Fredericks – Member (*by virtue of being Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Sub Committee*)
2. Dhruv Patel – as Deputy
3. Mary Durcan – as Deputy
4. Helen Fentimen – as Deputy

g). **The Chairman** be appointed to serve on the following for **2021/22**:

- **The Housing Delivery Programme Working Group; and**
- **The Health and Wellbeing Board**
- **The Safer City Partnership Board (as Chairman)**

h). The following be appointed as **Lead Portfolio Members for 2021/22**:

1. **Children Safeguarding** – Randall Anderson and Ruby Sayed
2. **Adult Safeguarding** – Randall Anderson and Ruby Sayed
3. **Young People** – Natasha Lloyd-Owen
4. **Rough Sleeping and Homelessness** – Randall Anderson
5. **Carers** – Susan Pearson

8. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 5th March 2021 be approved.

Matters arising

- A Member requested an update on the status of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee; a Statutory Body which had only met once since its inception. It was suggested that, as the Safer City Partnership Board would now be chaired by the Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee, there might be a conflict in their respective scrutiny roles. The Chairman asked for the relevant officers to consider this offline and report back to the Committee.
- The Committee would receive a presentation from the provider of the City Wellbeing Centre at its next meeting.
- A Member advised that the City of London Police had expressed an interest in some use of the Green Box if it were to be retained for use by the hotel developer.

9. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Chairman asked for completed actions to be removed.

The immediate past Chairman had nominated John Fletcher to serve on the Advisory Board for the new Community Centre (20 Little Somerset Street) and the Committee endorsed the appointment. Mr Fletcher asked for Members support in moving to a position where the Centre could be taken over by a community organisation. Mr Fletcher also stressed the importance of appointing a Centre Manager as soon as possible.

Covid-19 update

The Deputy Director of Public Health provided a brief update on the significant changes and progress in testing and thanked the City of London Corporation for the successful provision of Guildhall Yard as a PCR testing site. The Committee noted that, before the end of May, 65A Basinghall Street would be the new site for PCR testing. Lateral Flow testing would also relocate from Leadenhall to 65A Basinghall, for one month, before moving to a new site in the Guildhall complex.

Approximately 400 City workplaces had signed up for testing and the Public Health Team were actively encouraging twice a week testing for those returning to the City. Community pharmacies in the City were now offering lateral flow testing kits.

10. **GATEWAY 4C - YORK WAY ESTATE PROVISION OF SOCIAL HOUSING**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's services in respect of the provision of Social Housing on the York Way Estate. A Member commended an excellent, imaginative project which would significantly increase housing stock.

In response to questions, the following points were noted:

- The cost increase had been due to the London Borough of Islington's refusal to allow a building over seven-storeys in height, which meant that to achieve the required number of units, 4 blocks now had to be built instead of 3.
- York Way is the last scheme which can be accommodated within the current HRA funding envelope and alternative methods of funding would need to be considered for future schemes. The Chamberlain advised that new units are funded from separate Section 106 Funding, not the HRA, but 106 Funding would be exhausted once this project is complete.
- Whilst the HRA would benefit from this project in the longer term through the rental income from the new units, the HRA is under significant financial pressure, which has been adversely affected by the loss of income from commercial units during the pandemic.
- The Housing Programme Board, which comprises of officers from across several departments in the Corporation, meets monthly to discuss new development opportunities and, potential income from Section 106

funding. Planning colleagues continue to strive to maximise income from new developments, but levels would not be as high as in previous years.

RESOLVED, That:

1. The designs developed up to RIBA Stage 3 be approved.
2. The additional budget of £508,177 be approved, to further develop the scheme and reach Gateway 5.
3. The scheme be approved for progression to the construction stage, subject to the approval of the planning application, for the delivery of 91 new homes.
4. The total estimated cost of the project of £28,317,157 be noted, excluding risk and inflation, with the total estimated cost including risk and inflation being £32,393,000h.
5. The Risk Register at Appendix 2 to the report be noted and the previous approval of £174,500 be retained.
6. It be noted that approval will be sought from the Court of Common Council to approve delegation of all future project report approvals to the Community and Children's Services and Project Sub Committee.

11. GATEWAY 5 - INSTALLATION OF SPRINKLERS IN SOCIAL HOUSING TOWER BLOCKS

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the retro fit of sprinklers to five of the City of London Corporation's residential Tower Blocks.

During the discussion on this item the following points were raised:

- A myth busting booklet is being circulated to all residents at Great Arthur House, before being rolled out to the other estates. Plans are in hand to arrange a webinar for residents of Great Arthur House as part of the consultation process. Members were urged to use their influence to assure residents that this project is in their best interests and, encourage them to work with officers to ensure the project is a success.
- There was a view expressed in that the report might be a little premature, and there should have been more consultation with those leaseholders concerned about damage to their properties. The Assistant Director explained that on this occasion, there is little choice in what can and cannot be installed and, as such, consultation is restricted. However, officers are fully committed to engaging with residents and ensuring effective communications.

- There had been some delays in respect of surveying inside the properties, due to the lockdown, but the vast majority were now complete and a planning decision in respect of Great Arthur House was expected in the next 8-10 weeks. Planning officers are seeking to find the best solution for this installation and, whilst other blocks would not require Listed Building Consent, the least intrusive method of installation would be adopted.
- United Living, the successful tenderer, is an established company which is also on the City Corporation's preferred framework of contractors and, as such, has been subject to the usual due diligence. The Assistant Director assured Members that the project would be closely managed and monitored on site.
- The risk of a sprinkler head activating incorrectly is 16 million to 1, and residents' contents insurance would cover any damage to their possessions in the highly unlikely event of such an occurrence.
- Concern was expressed about the perceptions and reluctance of some residents, as sprinklers have been endorsed by the Fire Brigade for providing 24/7 protection. It was noted that temporary sprinklers had already been installed for some vulnerable tenants.

In concluding, the Chairman agreed that whilst safety is paramount, a sound communications strategy is also very important in raising residents' confidence.

RESOLVED, that:

1. The additional budget of £3,420,705 (including construction costs, consultants' fees, and staff costs) be approved for the appointment of United Living (South) Ltd to deliver the project and reach the next Gateway.
2. The revised project budget/total estimated cost of £3,722,649 (excluding risk) be noted.
3. A Costed Risk Provision of £350,000 be approved (to be drawn down via delegation to Chief Officer).
4. The revised estimated completion date of April 2022 is approved

Susan Pearson abstained.

Graeme Harrower asked for dissent to be recorded as he felt that the issues needed to be addressed properly in time and not relegated to risk factors. Mr Harrower stressed that this was a procedural objection only and not on safety grounds.

12. DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 3

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, which set out the progress made during Quarter 3 – September to December 2020 - against the 2017–2022 Department of Community and Children's Services (DCCS) Business Plan. It also commented on the Departmental Risk Register.

During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Most of the red risks are beyond the department's control. The performance on pathways for young people had improved since quarter 3, and this would show in the next report.
- Whilst there were some new housing projects in the pipeline, concern was expressed about the outturn for 19/20 and the target for 20/21. Members agreed that this warranted a focussed session on how the City Corporation might make progress. It was suggested that it might be timely to review the City's Corporate Plan in terms of social housing.
- The Committee is generally involved in housing projects within existing HRA estates, which are subject to consultation with residents and are therefore more complex than new builds on virgin sites. A Member had asked a question at the Policy and Resources Committee about formulating a Corporation-wide consultation strategy.
- The Deputy Chairman asked Members to be mindful of planning delays in new builds and the risk of Judicial Reviews, which are outside the City Corporation's control.
- The City of London Academy Trust (COLAT) is allowed to extend to 12 schools, under its original agreement, but there is currently no appetite for new build. It is likely to capture schools in high deprivation areas wishing to join the Multi Academy Trust (MAT). RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

13. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which informed Members of the allocation of primary and secondary school places to City of London pupils for the academic year 2021/22.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

14. GOLDEN LANE COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which provided an update on the work undertaken to ensure that the Golden Lane Community Centre is COVID-secure and meets the needs of the local community, as far as possible, and within national Government guidelines. Members noted that this report had been requested by the Chairman as part of the COVID-19 Working Group.

The Assistant Director advised that a temporary solution to the Wi-Fi problem had been installed while a full resolution was sought.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

15. SOCIAL CARE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services and Members noted that the Corporate Projects Board had discussed the report on 31 March 2021. The Board had agreed that the project may or may not require capital funding, depending on the outcome of the procurement process. The Board had also agreed that the project should proceed under the Officer Scheme of Delegation, until such a time that it was determined whether the project would reach the thresholds of the gateway process.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

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

In response to a question about business rate relief for the Community Centre at Golden Lane, the Assistant Director advised that, under current legislation, the City Corporation is not able to award business rate relief to itself. The Chairman advised that the issue of business rates was outside the remit of this Committee and asked Members to note existing pressures on the HRA. Officers agreed to work with the Chamberlain to produce a report for the Committee, setting out options and looking at the wider issues.

In response to a further question about gardening on the Estate and the City's policy on climate change and the emerging policy on bio-diversity, it was noted that many standard practices on public spaces were being reviewed. There was a request to implement local policies to allow residents to have more input into green spaces on the estate, and for a report to be taken to the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee, in the first instance.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items

18. 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.

19. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2021 be approved.

20. GREAT ARTHUR HOUSE

The Committee agreed to defer a joint report of the Director of Community and Children's Services and the Comptroller and City Solicitor

21. **ALDGATE (PORTSOKEN) PAVILION**
The Committee considered and partially approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
22. **HIGH SUPPORT HOSTEL FOR ROUGH SLEEPERS - PROCUREMENT STAGE 2 AWARD**
The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
23. **GOLDEN LANE SUBSTATION**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
24. **GATEWAY 5 - SYDENHAM HILL REDEVELOPMENT, LEWISHAM, SE26 6ND**
The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.
25. **SCHOOL ADMISSIONS - NON PUBLIC APPENDIX**
The Committee received a non-public appendix in respect of agenda item 13
26. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There was one question whilst the public were excluded
27. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
There were no items.
28. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**
The Committee approved the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2021.

The meeting ended at 1.06 pm

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Julie Mayer tel. no. 020 7332 1410
julie.mayer@cityoflondon.gov.uk**