

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 9 July 2021

Minutes of the meeting held via Microsoft Teams and livestreamed
to: <https://youtu.be/WQbErpRY360> at 11 am

The recording will be available for 1 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)	Graeme Harrower
Randall Anderson (Deputy Chairman)	Alderman Bronek Masojada
Benjamin Murphy	Alderman Alastair King
Matthew Bell	Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Peter Bennett	Deputy Elizabeth Rogula
Mary Durcan	Sir Michael Snyder
Marianne Fredericks	Dawn Wright
The Revd Stephen Haines	Alderman Emma Edhem
Caroline Haines	Deputy Tom Sleigh
Helen Fentimen	Mark Wheatley
Deputy Catherine McGuinness	Rehana Ameer
Susan Pearson	Deputy Henry Jones
William Pimlott	

In attendance: Ann Holmes, Mark Bostock

Officers:

Andrew Carter	- Director of Community and Children's Services
Paul Murtagh	- Assistant Director, Barbican and Property Services
Carol Boswarthack	- Head of Barbican and Community Libraries
Gerald Mehrtens	- Community and Children's Services
Jason Hayes	- Community and Children's Services
Julie Fittock	- City Surveyors
Ola Obadara	- City Surveyors
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerks
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Keith Bottomley and Sheriff Christopher Hayward.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, That – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 11 June 2021 be approved.

Matters arising:

1. Officers agreed to follow up a Members' enquiry about the First Love Foundation, in respect of the closure of the Square Mile Food Bank.
2. The Commissioning Report would be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.
3. The actions list in respect of Covid and lessons learnt would be captured by the High Level Strategic Business Plan, which is reported regularly to this Committee.
4. In respect of the seasonal flu plan, the Director of Public Health (City and Hackney) would provide a written response, which would be included with the circulation of the the minutes of this meeting.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Committee received the outstanding actions list.

5. **REVENUE OUTTURN 2020/21 - COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE (CITY FUND)**

The Committee received a joint report of the Director of Community and Children's Services and the Chamberlain regarding the Revenue Outturn 2020/21 – Community and Children's Services Committee (City Fund).

The Chair suggested that, as this item interrelated to item 12 (Housing Revenue Account Overview), any detailed discussion should be confined to the non-public part of the agenda

RESOLVED, That – the report be noted.

6. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT- OUTTURN 2021/21**

The Committee received a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding the Housing Revenue Account – Outturn 2021/22.

RESOLVED, That – the report be noted.

7. **HRA COMMERCIAL TENANTS: CURRENT TENANT ARREARS AND TERMS OF REPAYMENT PLANS RELATING TO COVID-19 RENTAL SUPPORT**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in relation to the HRA Commercial Tenants: Current Tenant Arrears and Terms of Repayment Plans Relating to COVID-19 Rental Support.

Members noted the impact of the press release, and once the engagement had started, officers would be in a better position to report back to Members. The Assistant Director, Barbican and Property Services, had written to all commercial tenants reminding them of the opportunity for assistance and the extended deadline.

Whilst there wasn't an appeals process as such, the Head of Barbican and Community Libraries advised that the City Business Library had been relaunched as the 'Small Business Research and Enterprise Centre'. The centre had been helping applicants with the administrative aspects of applying for the grant, and every attempt was being made to ensure they were successful. The Chamberlain's team had also been assisting tenants.

The officer advised that virtually all SME tenants (within the micro-business category) had qualified for a rent free quarter in June 2020; ie - the rent forgiveness required under the grant application process.

RESOLVED, That – the Committee:

1. delegate authority to the City Surveyor to agree best fit (shortest practical timescales to achieving repayment) voluntary repayment plans from the options outlined in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the 29th June 2021 report to the Resource Allocation Sub Committee (RASC);

and it be noted that :

2. where tenants fail to engage, or agree voluntary repayment plans, this will lead to the City reconsidering the position post March 2022.
3. no further rent or service charge concessions (rent frees or deferrals) are recommended for this quarter.
4. any costs of repayment plans, including legal fees and any budget impact from repayment plans, will need to be met from existing department budgets. However, it also be noted that the opportunity for budget holding departments to submit a business case to RASC for additional resources is proposed to continue to be available until at least September 2021.

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

There were no questions.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other business.

10. **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
11-13	3
14	2,3

11. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2021 be approved.

12. **HRA OVERVIEW**

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

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

The Committee received a report of the City Surveyor.

14. **HRA COMMERCIAL TENANTS: CURRENT TENANT ARREARS AND TERMS OF REPAYMENT PLANS RELATING TO COVID-19 RENTAL SUPPORT - NON PUBLIC APPENDICES**

The Committee received the non-public appendices in respect of agenda item 7.

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

There were no questions.

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

Two items of business were considered whilst the public were excluded.

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm

Chairman

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