

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 3 May 2023

Minutes of the meeting held at Guildhall at 2.30 pm

Present

Members:

Ruby Sayed (Chairman)	Alderman Christopher Makin
Helen Fentimen (Deputy Chairman)	Timothy James McNally
Matthew Bell	Benjamin Murphy
James Bromiley-Davis	Henrika Priest
Anne Corbett	Naresh Hari Sonpar
Mary Durcan	Ceri Wilkins
Deputy John Fletcher	Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Deputy Marianne Fredericks	
Steve Goodman OBE	
Alderman and Sheriff Alastair King DL	

Officers:

Clare Chamberlain	- Interim Executive Director, Community and Children's Services
Dr Sandra Husbands	- Director of Public Health, City and Hackney
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's Department
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerks
Sam Hutchings	- Town Clerks
Chandni Tanner	- Town Clerks
Paul Murtagh	- Community and Children's Services
Chris Pelham	- Community and Children's Services
Ellie Ward	- Community and Children's Services
Ola Obadara	- City Surveyors
Mark Lowman	- City Surveyors
Andrew Fothersgill	- City Solicitors

In attendance: Deputy Edward Lord (agenda items 10 and 14)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy John Absalom, Shahnan Bakth, Ian Bishop-Laggett, Jason Pritchard, Aaron D'Souza, Caroline Haines and Florence Keelson-Anfu.

Benjamin Murphy and Nighat Qureishi joined the meeting on line

Taking the Chair

It was moved by Deputy John Fletcher, seconded by Alderman Christopher Makin and agreed that Alderman Alastair King take the Chair for the start of the meeting.

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

Tim McNally declared an interest in respect of item twenty (20) of the non-public reports; Rights to Light, Sumner Buildings.

Mr McNally explained that the developer JTRE ("Sons & Co") had recently signed a commercial property deal with Southwark United Charities, in respect of an office building and almshouse on land in Blackfriars Road. Mr McNally serves as Chair of Finance and Vice-Chair of the Trustees and is also the principal signatory on behalf of the Charity. Mr McNally further declared that he would be partaking of corporate hospitality on Saturday 6th May 2023 at the Mayor of Southwark's Charity Ball as a guest of JTRE (ticket value £125). Although unrelated to Mr McNally's role at the City of London Corporation, as he had served as the Deputy Chair of the City Corporation's Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee in 2022/23, he declared a non-pecuniary interest in this matter.

3. **ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL**

The Committee received the order of the Court of Common Council dated 27th April 2023, which appointed the Committee and approved its terms of reference.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Ahead of the election of the Chair and Deputy Chair, the Town Clerk reminded Members of recently approved Standing Orders 29.4 and 30.5, whereby any Member interested in standing for the positions of Chairman or Deputy Chairman is asked to inform the Town Clerk by no later than one full working day ahead of the meeting. The Town Clerk confirmed that the positions of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee (CSSC) were uncontested.

RESOLVED, that – being the only Member expressing a willingness to serve, Ruby Sayed be elected as Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee for 2023/24.

The Chair thanked the Committee for electing her as their Chair for her final year in office. The Chair also thanked Clare Chamberlain, the Interim Executive Director, noting that this would be her last meeting, and welcomed Judith Finlay, the new Executive Director, who would be taking up her position in June 2023. The Chair then thanked retiring Members and welcomed new and returning Members.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

RESOLVED, that – being the only Member expressing a willingness to serve, Helen Fentimen be elected as Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee for 2023/24.

6. **APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTEES**

RESOLVED, that – Laura Jorgenson and Matt Piper be appointed as the two parent governors, as set out in the Order of the Court

7. **APPOINTMENTS TO SUB COMMITTEES, PORTFOLIOS AND ALLOCATED MEMBERS**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk concerning the appointment of the Community and Children’s Services Committee’s Sub Committees and approval of their Compositions and Terms of Reference. In addition, Members were asked to appoint Lead Members to the various portfolios, and Allocated Members to the City’s Housing Estates.

In respect of the Membership of the Sub Committees, the Town Clerk sked Members to note the recently approved amendments to standing orders, whereby the recent practice of allowing additional Members onto Sub committees, in order to avoid a ballot, should be by exception and only if it is in the best interests of the Committee and the Sub Committee.

RESOLVED – That the following subcommittees/ portfolio holders and allocated Members be appointed:

a) Housing Management and Alms-houses Sub Committee
Uncontested

Chair and Deputy Chair of Community and Children’s Sub Committee (CCSC)

- Joanna Abeyie
- Jamel Banda
- Anne Corbett
- Mary Durcan
- John Fletcher
- Tim McNally
- Henrika Priest
- Ceri Wilkins

b) Safeguarding Sub-Committee *Uncontested with one vacancy. Members agreed that the vacancy would be advertised after the meeting and, if there were no expressions of interest from Members of CCSC, it would be opened up to the wider Court of Common Council.*

Chair and Deputy Chair of CCSC

- Joanna Abeyie
- Anne Corbett
- Mary Durcan
- Ben Murphy
- Ceri Wilkins
- 1 x vacancy

c) Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee

There were 10 nominations from both CCSC and Court Members and, following a ballot, the following Members were appointed

Natasha Lloyd-Owen (Court)
Eamonn Mulally (Court)
Mark Wheatley (Court)
Anne Corbett (CCSC)
Marianne Fredericks (CCSC)
Henrika Priest (CCSC)

d) Education Board

The Chair (of CCSC) advised that she had been appointed to the Education Board by virtue of her position as a Member of the Court. However, she had decided to step down and take up the position in her capacity as Chair of CCSC, thereby creating a vacancy. Naresh Sonpar, who had been last year's CCSC representative had also been appointed to the Education Board by virtue of his position as a Member of the Court.

e) Lead Members (uncontested)

- a. Adult and Children Safeguarding – Ruby Sayed;
- b. Young People – Florence Keelson-Anfu.
- c. Carers' Champion – Anne Corbett.

f) To appoint the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee, the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, along with 3 Deputies, to the **Integrated Care Sub Committee (of the City and Hackney Place-based Partnership). *Uncontested with one vacancy. Members agreed that this would be advertised again following the meeting.***

Chair and Deputy Chair of CCSC

Deputies:

Ceri Wilkins
Florence Keelson-Anfu
1 x vacancy

g) To appoint the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Community & Children's Services Committee, or their representatives, to the **Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.**

h) To appoint the following **Allocated Members to the City Corporation's various Housing Estates.**

ESTATE	ALLOCATED MEMBER
Avondale Square (Southwark), including Harman Close	Tim McNally
<u>Small Estates:</u> Isleden House (Islington); Windsor House (Hackney)	Ceri Wilkins
Golden Lane (City)	Ceri Wilkins Anne Corbett
Holloway & York Way (Islington)	Mary Durcan
Middlesex Street (City) & Dron House/Spitalfields (Tower Hamlets)	John Fletcher
South Bank Estates: Southwark Blocks (Southwark) William Blake (Lambeth)	Tim McNally
City of London & Gresham Almshouses (Lambeth)	Florence Keelson-Anfu
Sydenham Hill: Lammas Green/Otto Close (Lewisham)	Ruby Sayed Tim McNally

The Chair addressed the Committee in respect of uniformity in the appointment of the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the Sub Committees, again noting the change to Standing Orders agreed at the Court on 27th April 2023, whereby any change to the default position of the Chair and Deputy Chair (of the Grand Committee) chairing Sub Committees '**is subject to the support of the wider Committee Membership**'.

- i) **Safeguarding Sub Committee** – the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Grand Committee shall continue to Chair.
- j) **Housing Management and Almsouses Sub Committee** – to be chaired by the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Grand Committee, for the time being, given the number of pending governance changes in terms of it becoming a Grand Committee.

k) **Homelessness and Rough Sleeping** – to be chaired by the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Grand Committee at the start of the next meeting of the Sub Committee. Newly elected Members will be asked to submit expressions of interest for the positions of Chair and Deputy Chair. Members agreed with this approach and thanked Marianne Fredericks for her sterling work in Chairing the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping and Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committees.

l) **Integrated Commissioning** –to be chaired by the Deputy Chair, noting her breadth of experience in the NHS.

m) Terms of Reference of the Sub Committees

The Chair suggested looking at these again at an ‘Awayday’ outside of the Committee.

RESOLVED, that – the above proposals in respect of the Sub Committee Chairs and Terms of Reference be approved.

8. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 13th March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

9. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

The Committee received a report on the public outstanding actions from the previous meeting of the Committee. Members noted that target dates would be included in the next version of the actions list.

10. GLOBAL CITY OF SPORT: A NEW SPORTS STRATEGY FOR THE SQUARE MILE

The Committee received a report of the Interim Director of Communications & External Affairs on the work to prioritise sport provision in the Square Mile and develop a medium term strategy for future investment in facilities and activities.

The Chair introduced this item and advised that the new strategy is the result of extensive consultation with stakeholders, residents, workers and visitors and welcomed the opportunity to improve the Square Mile’s sports offer. The Chair further advised that herself and 9 CCSC Members had been actively involved in the Sounding Board and attended visits to leisure facilities in neighbouring boroughs.

Members noted the report later on the agenda in respect of the Golden Lane Leisure Centre and noted that, at the last meeting of the Committee, they had expressed support for improving its services and facilities, noting that the Sports Strategy would develop over a number of years.

During the discussion and questions the following points were noted:

- The new Natural Environment Board would be receiving a separate report and the Chair asked if Members of CCS could be sighted on it. The joined up approach to the City Corporation’s previous strategy on

sports and physical activity was commended. In terms of Schools, the City Corporation cannot impose its Strategy on the Academies Trust but CCSC has representation on the Education Board.

- Data supporting the new Sport Strategy had been submitted to the Sports Sounding Board for consideration. This was referenced in the 'background papers' to the report and is available on request.
- As there is currently no case for a 'new site', then this should be made clearer. The City Corporation should consider the private sector's offer and facilities in neighbouring boroughs, so as to deliver a multi-faceted approach to sport and physical activity.

In concluding, the Chair advised that a business base for future sport investment would be presented during the next phase of strategy delivery, noting that this report sought Members' views on the direction of travel.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

11. HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2023-2027

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Executive Director, Community and Children's Services in respect of the response to the public consultation of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for 2023–2027, following a 12-week public consultation. Members noted that the Sub-Committee had requested further information and recommended deferring a decision until either the July or September meeting of the Committee.

12. DRAFT HIGH-LEVEL BUSINESS PLAN 2023/24 - DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Executive Director, Community and Children's Services in respect of the high-level Business Plan for the Department of Community and Children's Services for 2023/24. The Chair advised that a Members' Briefing would be arranged in respect of the new 5-Year Business Plan. A Member asked if social mobility could be included under the 'People' Category in the report.

RESOLVED, that – the factors taken into consideration in compiling the Business Plan for Community and Children's Services be noted and the elements of the departmental Business Plan 2023/24, which fall within the Committee's Terms of Reference, be approved.

13. UPDATES FROM THE VARIOUS SUB COMMITTEES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD, PORTFOLIO HOLDERS AND MEMBERS ALLOCATED TO HOUSING ESTATES

The Committee received updates from various Chairs of the Sub Committees, Portfolio Holders and allocated Members, and the following points were noted:

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

Work to the assessment centre had commenced. Policies were being refreshed following a recent death in the City and the immediate past Chair would be seeking assurance that lessons had been learnt by stakeholders outside of the City. A Member asked about raising awareness generally amongst the wider Court of Common Council.

Housing Management and Almshouses

The complaints procedure was being refreshed, so as to put more onus on the Contractor and free up under-resourced officer time in managing long running disputes. The issues reported during the walkabouts were being resolved.

Safeguarding - There had not been a meeting since the last Grand Committee

Integrated Care Sub Committee (of the City and Hackney Place-based Partnership)

The next development session would cover diversity and the Deputy Chair would advise Members once a date had been arranged.

Health and Wellbeing Board

The last meeting had received reports on the hidden and essential workforce, damp and mould and the actions being taken to resolve this, and a report from City Healthwatch and their role in taking up local healthcare issues on behalf of residents. A breakfast meeting on mental health had been scheduled for all Members of the Court on 17th May (8-10 am)

Allocated Member updates

Golden Lane

Officers were thanked for the drop in sessions on the window repairs, which had an excellent turnout and received very good feedback. The Interim Executive Director was thanked for her support with the monthly resident meetings. A request for bike storage was under consideration and there had been a discussion about setting up a Residents' Association.

A visit to York Way Estate had been scheduled for 4th May and would be included in the update at the next Committee meeting.

Middlesex Street

The Steering Group had been set up and the Allocated Member thanked the Chairs of the Resident and Leaseholder Associations and the Committee for their new collaborative approach. Repairs performance was improving but there were ongoing issues with repairs to common parts. Concern was expressed about electric shocks from playground equipment and, as this had been an issue on other estates, the Chair asked if it could be resolved as a matter of urgency. The local community were planning a Coronation Day celebration.

Sydenham Hill

The new development project had been delayed for a number of years due to legal issues. The Chair (of CCSC) was chairing the resident meetings and building relationships with the local community and Ward Councillors. The relocation of a bus stand is a potential issue, and the Chair had asked the London Borough of Lewisham to lead on this, as it falls outside of the City Corporation's remit.

Carers champion

The new Project Manager has been very visible and well received in the community. The response to the consultation on the strategy was a little disappointing but Members noted the need for more financial support, signposting to help and engagement on the estates.

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

The Committee received a question, in several parts, in respect of the implementation of new communal heating systems in the Middlesex Estate. The Assistant Director, Barbican and Property Services, advised that the question(s) had been raised in consultation sessions and featured in the FAQ communications but agreed to write to all leaseholders setting out the City Corporation's response.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT: MIDDLESEX STREET ESTATE - RESIDENT IMPROVEMENTS AND THE IMPACT ON THE SERVICE CHARGE

The Committee received a report of the Interim Executive Director, Community and Children's Services and the City Surveyor, which superseded the non-public report on the agenda.

The report set out the benefits for residents arising from the City of London Corporation's (the Corporation) proposal to redevelop parts of the Middlesex Street Estate's basement, ground-floor, and first-floor car parks and, seven retail units along Gravel Lane, to provide an operational base for the City of London Police (CoLP) in the East of the City of London.

The Portsoken Ward Deputy thanked the Chair for allowing the report to be considered in the non-public part of the agenda. Members also noted a letter from the Chairs of the Residents and Leaseholder Associations which had been shared with the Committee. The Chair advised that the points raised would be considered at the forthcoming Middlesex Street Estate Community Steering Group, before a final decision is taken. The Deputy Chair advised that the last meeting of the Community Steering Group had considered concerns raised about the podium design. In concluding, the Chair thanked the Deputy Chair (of CSSC) for chairing the Steering Group Meetings and asked if their minutes could be shared with CCS Members.

RESOLVED, that:

1. Note the range and cost of benefits to be provided to residents of the Middlesex Street Estate as part of the proposal to develop surplus space within the car parks to provide an operational base for the CoLP.
2. To agree that the fair and reasonable costs incurred by the Corporation in running, servicing, and maintaining these benefits be recovered from residents through the service charge account for the estate.
3. Consider the introduction of a new post of Car Park Attendant/Officer to help ensure the efficient management of the space in the Middlesex Street Estate car parks and how this post may be funded.
4. To agree that £360,000 of the £3.45million ring-fenced for housing use, in respect of the appropriation of the Middlesex Street Estate Car Park, be set aside to fund, if necessary, further improvements and landscaping to the podium requested by residents. NB This will only be used if all reasonable efforts to obtain external funding have been exhausted,

21. **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.

22. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED – that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2023 be approved as an accurate record.

At 4.30 pm Members agreed to extend the meeting to conclude the business on the agenda.

23. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS LIST - NON PUBLIC**

The Committee received the non-public actions list.

24. **GOLDEN LANE LEISURE CENTRE**

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

25. **RIGHTS OF LIGHT COMPENSATION 185 PARK STREET AFFECTING SUMNER BUILDINGS**

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

26. **CITY OF LONDON PRIMARY ACADEMY ISLINGTON (COLPAI) - GATEWAY 5 - ISSUES REPORT**

The Committee considered and approved a report of the Interim Executive Director, Community and Children's Services and the City Surveyor.

27. MIDDLESEX STREET ESTATE - RESIDENT IMPROVEMENTS AND THE IMPACT ON THE SERVICE CHARGE

This item was superseded by agenda item 15.

28. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk.

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

There were no items.

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

There were no questions.

The meeting ended at 5pm

Chairman

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