COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 5 May 2026

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 5 May 2026 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP (Chair)
Steve Goodman OBE (Deputy Chair)
Joanna Tufuo Abeyie
Matthew Bell
Simon Burrows
Anthony David Fitzpatrick
Deputy John Fletcher
Dawn Frampton
Mercy Haggerty
Amy Horscroft
Sandra Jenner
Shravan Joshi MBE
Helen Ladele
Sophia Mooney
Leyla Ostovar
Beverley Ryan
Stuart Thompson
Deputy Ceri Wilkins
David Williams
Philip Woodhouse
Alderman Kawsar Zaman

In Attendance:

Adam Hogg
Jacqueline Webster
Deputy Marianne Fredericks (virtual)
Deputy Ann Holmes (virtual)
Alderwoman Elizabeth King BEM JP (virtual)

Officers:

Judith Finlay	-	Executive Director, Community and Children's Services
Beverley Andrews	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Paul Barton	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Deborah Bell	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Peta Caine	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Himmang Chemjong	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Zoe Gayle	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Michael Gwyther-Jones	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Greg Knight	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Chris Lovitt	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Chris Pelham	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Greg Wade	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Ellie Ward	-	Community and Children's Services Department
Lisa Ward	-	Communications and External Affairs Department
Frank Marchione	-	Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Mark Jarvis	-	Chamberlain's Department
Amelia Christopher	-	Town Clerk's Department

Kate Doidge	-	Town Clerk's Department
Polly Dunn	-	Town Clerk's Department

At the outset of the meeting, the Chief Commoner, Philip Woodhouse moved Alderman Kawsar Zaman into the Chair to preside over the meeting until the election of Chair.

The Town Clerk noted that given the timescales between this meeting and the last, the April and May Committee minutes would go to June's Committee for approval.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Munsur Ali, Deputy Anne Corbett, Aaron Anthony Jose Hasan D'Souza, Sarah Gillinson, Alderman Tim Levene, Mark Wheatley and Deputy Nighat Qureishi.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

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

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk concerning the Order of the Court of Common Council dated 23 April 2026. The Town Clerk noted an update to the Order, that David Sales had resigned from the Committee.

RESOLVED: - That, the Order be received.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

The Committee elected a Chair in accordance with Standing Order 28.

Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP, being the only Member indicating their willingness to serve, was duly declared Chairman for the ensuing year.

The Chairman thanked departing Committee members: Charles Edward Lord OBE JP, Lesley Cole, Deputy Christopher Hayward, Alderman Christopher Makin, Jason Pritchard and Leyla Boulton.

The Chairman welcomed new Committee members: William Upton KC, Anthony David Fitzpatrick, Mercy Haggerty, Alderman Kawsar Zaman.

RESOLVED: - That, Deputy Helen Fentiman OBE JP, being the only Member indicating their willingness to serve, was elected Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee for the Civic Year 2026/27.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

The Committee elected a Deputy Chair in accordance with Standing Order 29.

Steve Goodman OBE, being the only Member indicating their willingness to serve, was duly declared to be Deputy Chair for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED: - That, Steve Goodman, being the only Member indicating their willingness to serve, was elected Deputy Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee for the Civic Year 2026/27.

6. **APPOINTMENTS TO SUB-COMMITTEES, PORTFOLIOS AND ALLOCATED MEMBERS**

The Committee received the report of the Town Clerk on appointments to various sub-committees and other appointments.

Regarding the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee, the Town Clerk noted an error in the external membership, the two vacant positions were filled by: James Breed, and Patrick Fowler.

Regarding the Integrated Care Sub-Committee (of the City and Hackney Place-based Partnership), the Chairman noted that due to NHS reforms the constitution of the sub-committee could change, once clarity was gained on the matter the Committee would be updated.

RESOLVED: -

a) Agreed the composition of and terms of reference of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee as set out at Appendix 2, and that the two vacancies be held over until the next Committee meeting on 30 June 2026.

- Deputy Helen Fentiman OBE JP
- Steve Goodman OBE
- Deputy James Thomson
- Deputy John Fletcher
- Sandra Jenner
- Deputy Ceri Wilkins
- Deputy Anne Corbett
- Mercy Haggerty
- Chief Commoner Philip Woodhouse
- Vacancy
- Vacancy

b) Elected the Chair of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee, Steve Goodman OBE, and noted that the Deputy Chair shall be elected by the Sub-Committee at its first meeting.

c) Agreed the Allocated Members to the City's Housing Estates, and that the next meeting of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee will determine the Allocated Members to the vacant positions: Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Lambeth; to return to a Committee meeting for approval.
    - Islington - Deputy Anne Corbett
    - Hackney - Deputy Ceri Wilkins
    - Lewisham - Sandra Jenner
    - City of London - Golden Lane Estate - Deputy Ceri Wilkins
    - Middlesex Street Estate - Deputy John Fletcher

d) Agreed the composition and terms of reference of the Safeguarding and Special Educational Needs Sub-Committee as set out in Appendix 3, and that the three vacancies be held over until the next Committee meeting on 30 June 2026.
    - Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP
    - Steve Goodman OBE
    - Deputy Ceri Wilkins
    - Deputy Anne Corbett
    - Stuart Thompson
    - Vacancy
    - Vacancy
    - Vacancy

e) Elected the Chair of the Safeguarding and Special Educational Needs Sub-Committee, Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP, and noted that the Deputy Chair shall be elected by the Sub-Committee at its first meeting.

f) Agreed the composition and terms of reference of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee as set out at Appendix 4 (non-Community and Children's Services Committee members are appointed elsewhere).
    - Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP
    - Steve Goodman OBE
    - Mark Wheatley
    - Leyla Ostovar
    - Helen Ladele
    - Sophia Mooney
    - David Williams
    - Dawn Frampton

g) Agreed that as there were no nominees for the position of Chair of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee, in line with Standing Order 26 (9): the Chair of the Appointing Committee, Deputy Helen Fentiman OBE JP, will automatically assume the position, and that this position be returned to the next meeting of the Committee on 30 June 2026, and noted that the Deputy Chair shall be elected by the Sub-Committee at its first meeting.

h) Appointed the Chairman and Deputy Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee, to the Integrated Care Sub-Committee (of the City and Hackney Place-based Partnership) set out in Appendix 5 and 6, and noted that the three vacancies (Deputies) be held over until the next Committee meeting on 30 June 2026.
    - Deputy Helen Fentiman OBE JP
    - Steve Goodman OBE
    - Vacancy
    - Vacancy
    - Vacancy

i) Appointed Lead Members to the following Portfolios set out in Appendix 7:
    i. Adult and Children Safeguarding - Deputy Ceri Wilkins
    ii. Young People - Deputy Ceri Wilkins
    iii. Carers' and Special Educational Needs Champion - Deputy Anne Corbett

j) Appointed Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP to the Education Board.

k) Appointed Chief Commoner Philip Woodhouse to the Projects and Procurement Sub-Committee.

l) Noted the Chairman's proposed representative, Deputy Anne Corbett on the Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee subject to her willingness to serve.

m) Appointed the Chairman and Deputy Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee, Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP and Steve Goodman OBE, to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

n) Appointed the Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee, Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP, to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

7. GOLDEN LANE LEISURE CENTRE - UPDATE

The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services on the Golden Lane Leisure Centre. During the item, two corrections to the report were noted: the first being the that the correct figure for the £230,000 estimate for the cost in extending the process being £130,000; and that the correct year in paragraph 11 was 2025, not 2005.

Officers explained that due to the strength of feeling expressed in public engagement, Members were asked to reconsider the design options 1 and 2c and open up wider engagement. Any engagement would need to complete shortly to meet the deadline of 30 June 2026 for final decision. Had committed to establish an advisory board, names of those interested in the board had been recorded and further awareness of that board would be raised.

A Member expressed their strong feeling in keeping the sports hall open which provided a flexible and inclusive space. The Member asked whether any assessment had been made on how people use the centre, particularly workers with short lunch breaks. The Member asked why the sports hall could not stay open during refurbishment, whether it was impossible or had been ruled out due to its complexity and additional costs. The Member's queries were answered under any other business at Item 9.

A Member asked for confirmation that should there be additional consultation, whether the refurbishment start date would be pushed back and if so by how much. In response, officers anticipated that additional consultation would mean the redesign to go through the planning application process in September 2026; the timescale would be pushed back by two to three months.

A Member queried whether the market research, financial modelling and community needs assessment underpinning the design options had been shared with Members. The Member noted that it was unclear whether the options accounted for the increase in affordable local gyms, or the social value of the spaces, or the specific needs of residents. The Member noted that it was critical to reopen the design decision and asked whether the advisory board would receive the design options being considered. In response, officers explained that the papers described the design options and the survey details, for Members to review the agreed design option.

A Member asked if the date was moved, the £130,000 estimate for the cost in extending the process would come out of the £10.4 million for refurbishment and that could potentially reduce the quality of work and asked why there was a wait until September for the planning application process. A Member also asked whether officers were confident that the final costs were known. A Member noted concern in any delay due to increased building costs as a result of the geopolitical climate. In response, officers explained that there was sufficient contingency in the budget to absorb that cost without affecting the design, any additional consultation agreed by Members may affect the planning timescale.

Having reviewed the financial modelling regarding the calculations received by the Committee on 28 January 2026, a Member noted that there was scope to reconsider. The information from the operator was not correct regarding the extent of the use of the space and revenue being generated, and that could not

have been foreseen. The Member stressed that the right decision might require the review of the financial modelling as the subsidy figure previously presented might now be operationally different, and the strength of community support for the space. The Member noted that service users should be encouraged to use and invest in the space. In response, officers explained that the information received regarding Fusion Lifestyle was not as expected and they would be happy to retest the business case analysis, and officers acknowledged the social value of the sports hall.

A Member asked why the strength of feeling from the previous consultation did not come through, resulting in further consultation to be undertaken and what would be done differently. The Member highlighted that September seemed optimistic. In response, officers clarified that the consultation was successful with a mix of views from approximately 400 responses. Option 1 and 2c focused on the use of the sports hall versus not, versus the use of the gym, that would be a simple consultation, the business case to be reassessed to test the assumptions.

A Member asked how the transition arrangements for the refurbishment period had accelerated, were there any issues and had those been addressed. The Member also asked whether officers were confident that the final costs were known. In response, officers explained that the arrangements scheduled for December needed to be brought forward, there were different experiences between user groups due to complexities, and the aim was to ensure a seamless experience for all groups.

A Member referred to the approximately 400 responses from the consultation, noting that because there was dissatisfaction with the outcome it was deemed to be flawed and asked why the issues had not been raised before. The Member welcomed the revelation that the anticipated deficit regarding the other option might not be the case and sought more detail on that. In response, officers explained that the remodelling of the figures would be undertaken, now having the benefit of the complete closure information from Fusion Lifestyle. The initial consultation was not flawed. The matter to be clarified concerned the use of the sports hall versus not, and that could not be discussed with residents at the time as a design conversation had not been had.

A Member asked whether the matter of the sports hall use could be ring fenced and whether certain aspects of the decision be reopened around the revenue aspect. In response, officers explained that it was interconnected, the sports hall in the current modelling shows a financial deficit with increased gym facility.

A Member noted the difference between resident consultation such as a survey, compared with resident engagement codesigning and coproducing a plan for a space. The Member suggested that a codesign board be established rather than the advisory board. In response, officers explained that formal consultation would follow around the planning application work.

The Chairman clarified that the matter at hand concerned the process of engagement, it was not a consultation or a codesign. She acknowledged the delays in timing, and that additional information had come to light, requiring financial remodelling. She confirmed that the outcome of the engagement would be reported back to the Committee in June when the Committee will

confirm the preferred option; to go through the planning application process in September 2026 and not July. She noted that the involvement of people in the project and in future arrangements could take place in parallel.

A vote was taken on the second recommendation on whether to revisit the design option agreed in January 2026 and open up wider engagement on these options.

10 Members voted For, 7 Members voted Against, with 1 Abstention.

Therefore, the recommendation was carried.

Dawn Frampton requested that her vote be recorded, she voted For.

Some Members noted concern in the consequences of delay and noted that procedurally the Committee could requisition a special meeting if it was quorate, to enable the redesign to go to an earlier planning meeting. The Chairman asked officers to put forward a clear plan on the timeline concerning the wider engagement and financial modelling to take place. In response, officers highlighted the tight timescale until the June Committee meeting, noting that urgent papers would likely be presented then.

RESOLVED: -

- Noted the report.
- Agreed to revisit the design option agreed in January 2026 and open up wider engagement on these options.

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

There were no questions.

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

One item of urgent business was raised.

A Member asked what the cost implications of keeping the sports hall open were, regarding insurance, business rates, and cleaning. The Member asked how that compared to the community centre being used when there were no City Corporation staff on site for bookings, would that affect insurance costs. In response, officers noted that they would provide a written response outside of the meeting.

10. **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.

11. **GOLDEN LANE ESTATE MAJOR WORKS RENEWAL PROGRAMME - PHASE 1: CRESCENT HOUSE**

The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services on Phase 1: Crescent House regarding the Golden Lane Estate Major Works Renewal Programme.

NOTE: The Committee agreed that agenda Items 11, 12 and 13 be discussed together.

12. **GOLDEN LANE ESTATE MAJOR WORKS RENEWAL PROGRAMME - PHASE 2: ALL BLOCKS EXCLUDING CRESCENT HOUSE AND GREAT ARTHUR HOUSE**

The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services on Phase 2: all blocks excluding Crescent House and Great Arthur House regarding the Golden Lane Estate Major Works Renewal Programme.

13. **GREAT ARTHUR HOUSE FIRE SAFETY AND INVESTMENT WORKS**

The Committee received the report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services on fire safety and investment works at Great Arthur House.

14. **ADDITIONAL POSTS - MAJOR WORKS TEAM (HRA), DCCS**

The Committee received the report of the Director of Housing on additional posts in the Major Works Team regarding the Housing Revenue Account.

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

There were no non-public questions.

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

There were no non-public items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 3.08 pm

Chairman

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