

PORT HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 4 July 2012

Minutes of the meeting of the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 1.45pm

Present

Members:

John Tomlinson (Chairman)	Deputy Stanley Ginsburg
Sheriff & Deputy Wendy Mead (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy Revd Stephen Haines
Deputy John Barker	Robert Howard
Deputy John Bennett	Barbara Newman
Nigel Challis	Deputy Janet Owen
Deputy Billy Dove	Deputy John Owen-Ward
Kevin Everett	Ann Pembroke
Deputy Bill Fraser	Deputy Richard Regan
George Gillon	Deputy Robin Sherlock

Officers:

Katie Odling	- Town Clerk's Department
Jenny Pitcairn	- Chamberlain's Department
Paul Monaghan	- City Surveyor's Department
Steve Presland	- Department of the Built Environment
Doug Wilkinson	- Department of the Built Environment
David Smith	- Director of Markets and Consumer Protection
Jon Averbs	- Markets & Consumer Protection Department
Sue Ireland	- Director of Open Spaces
Gary Burks	- Superintendent & Registrar, City of London Cemetery & Crematorium
Nicky Johnson	- Head of Corporate HR Services

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Robert Duffield, John Absalom, Alderman Nick Anstee, Kevin Everett, Deputy Pauline Halliday, Dr Peter Hardwick, Vivienne Littlechild, Deputy Gerald Pulman, Delis Regis, Matthew Richardson, Jeremy Simons and Deputy Michael Welbank.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2012 were approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING : -

Queen's Diamond Jubilee – River Pageant (Item 6) – The Chairman reported the successful cleansing operation following the River Pageant and staff in the cleansing and maintenance teams were congratulated on their efforts.

Annual Air Quality Monitoring Review and Air Quality Strategy Progress Report (Item 13) – Members were informed that a letter had been sent to the Mayor of London from the Leaders of Westminster City Council and Camden Borough Council and the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee regarding improving Air Quality in London, a copy of which was tabled at the meeting.

Annual River Inspection (Item 18) – The Chairman thanked those present that were able to attend the recent Annual River Inspection which he reported was a successful and enjoyable day.

4. LOVE CLEAN STREETS PRESENTATION

The Committee received a presentation from Ian Blackburn (Love Clean Streets) which informed Members regarding the new mobile phone app for 'Love the Square Mile' which enabled easy reporting of environmental issues from your mobile phone.

The Chairman thanked Mr Blackburn for his presentation and informed Members that the links to the app for the various devices had been circulated via e-mail.

5. REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, prepared on behalf of the Governance Working Party, to seek comments, if any, from this Committee on the governance arrangements introduced in 2011 and the impact they may have had on the operation of this Committee.

RESOLVED : - That it be noted that there were no areas of concern that required reporting to the Governance Working Party.

6. CHIEF OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk regarding the dissolution of the Department of Environmental Services and the involvement of the Chairman of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee in the appointment of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection and the Director of Open Spaces.

The Chairman advised that this report would also be submitted to the Open Spaces and Markets Committees for information.

RESOLVED : - That,

- i) the report be noted by the Corporate HR Unit and be required to make the necessary preparations to give Port Health and Environmental

Services Committee appropriate representation in the future appointments of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection and the Director of Open Spaces; and

- ii) the Terms of Reference of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee be amended at the next appropriate opportunity to reflect the wishes of the Committee.

7. REVENUE OUTTURN 2011-12

Consideration was given to a joint report of the Chamberlain, the Director of the Built Environment, the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection and the Director of Open Spaces which compared the revenue outturn for the services overseen by this Committee in 2011/12 with the final agreed budget for the year.

Following a question raised regarding a bid for carry-forward of funds to 2012/2013, discussion ensued regarding the installation of a 4th Uri-lift public convenience, Members were informed that it was unlikely that a Uri-lift would be installed in the Aldgate area during this financial year due to the works that were scheduled to start shortly. Members considered that Smithfield (Charterhouse Street) should be considered as an area with a need for a Uri-lift, however, prior to this, market traders would need to be consulted and a report would be required to be considered by this Committee at any decision stage.

In respect of the Community Toilet Scheme, there were currently 60 premises operating within the scheme and officers were actively ensuring that the logo for the scheme was adequately displayed on every premise.

Members briefly discussed the issues of adequate public conveniences outside or close to Fabric nightclub.

Provision also for public conveniences for women was also requested to be re-considered by officers, although it was noted that this was likely to be at significant cost to the Corporation and it was agreed to include a response within the report on Public Conveniences due to come to this committee in November.

RESOLVED :- That the revenue outturn report for 2011/12 and the proposed carry forwards of underspendings to 2012/13 be noted.

8. ENTERPRISE CONTRACT UPDATE

Members received an oral update from the Director of Highways and Cleansing regarding the Enterprise contract. The Director reported that the operation was performing well and the Corporation was working closely with Enterprise to improve communications.

9. TIME BANDING SCHEME UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of the Built Environment which provided an update regarding progress in the implementation of the Time

Banding Scheme for bagged waste (sacks) and loose recycling since 1 April 2012.

The Committee congratulated the Cleansing team for their continued efforts.

RESOLVED : - That,

- i) the report be noted; and
- ii) an independent customer survey be undertaken before the end of the financial year of 2012/13.

10. BUSINESS PLAN 2011-12 FOURTH QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of the Built Environment which set out the end of year performance for the Department against the KPIs on the business plan.

RESOLVED : - That the quarter 4 performance indicators for 2011/12 against the key performance indicators and Service Response Standards and the financial and statistical information contained within be noted.

11. DEPARTMENT OF MARKETS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION BUSINESS PLAN 2011/12 - OUTTURN REPORT

Consideration was given to a joint report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection and the Director of Open Spaces which set out the Business Plan progress information for 2011-2012 for the Port Health and Public Protection Division of the former Department of Environmental Services (DES), now part of the Department of Markets and Consumer Protection (M&CP).

RESOLVED :- That the report be noted.

12. ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AT MIDDLESEX STREET MARKET

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection which provided information on enforcement activity at Middlesex Street Market. The report outlined the further enforcement action taken to date and confirmed that inspections would be undertaken on a regular basis in order to ensure that encroachments on City pavements are removed.

RECEIVED.

13. INTERIM POSITION ON VEHICLE ACCESS PERMIT CHARGES

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Open Spaces which provided an update on the interim position regarding vehicle access permit charges.

One Member requested consideration of the impact on parking outside the Cemetery and the Director of Open Spaces confirmed that this would be looked at as part of the consultation.

RESOLVED : - That

- i) the appointment of Marketing Assistance Ltd at a cost of £9,800 to undertake consultations and research to identify public perception towards the introduction of a charge for permits and other opportunities to generate income, to support future management of the Cemetery be approved; and
- ii) a detailed report on the outcome of the consultation undertaken by Marketing Assistance Ltd., including the matter of charging for vehicle access into the site be received.

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

There were three questions raised : -

Cory Energy from Waste Plant –

A question was raised regarding the working environment of the Energy from Waste Plant and the possible health impacts on staff. The Director advised that he would be happy to mention to the management at Cory the concern raised by the Member, however, the City of London Corporation was not the enforcing authority for Cory.

Rose Alley –

Concern was expressed regarding the cleanliness of Rose Alley in Bishopsgate which was also renowned for rough sleepers. The Director confirmed that Rose Alley would be looked at and the issue of rough sleepers would be referred to the Community and Children's Services department.

Public Swimming on the River Thames –

A final question was raised regarding bathing in the river Thames and whether the water quality in central London had improved significantly to allow for bathing to take place. The Director advised that the Port Health Authority byelaw, which came into force on 1st July 2012, did not ban swimming in the Thames; it controlled swimming between Putney Bridge and Crossness (just below the Thames Barrier) by making it necessary to get the prior consent. It was introduced primarily for safety reasons.

15. URGENT ITEMS

There were no items of urgent business.

16. 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.

17. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2012 were considered.

18. DEBT ARREARS – PORT HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2012

Consideration was given to a joint report of the Director of the Built Environment, the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection and the

Director of Open Spaces regarding debt arrears for Port Health and Environmental Services – period ending 31 March 2012.

RECEIVED.

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

There were no questions.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERED URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 3.00pm

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Katie Odling
tel. no.: 020 7332 3414
katie.odling@cityoflondon.gov.uk**