

# BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**PERRY BARR DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY,  
29 SEPTEMBER, 2016**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PERRY BARR  
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 14  
JULY, 2016 AT 1500 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE  
ROOM 2, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT:** - Councillor Hussain in the Chair

Councillors Gurdial Singh Atwal, Barbara Dring, Tristan Chatfield,  
Paulette Hamilton, Narinder Kooner, Keith Linnecor, Hendrina  
Quinnen, Karen Trench and Waseem Zaffar.

**ALSO PRESENT**

Neil De-Costa – Perry Barr District Head  
Kate Foley, Acting Senior Service Manager, Housing (Central West)  
Dave Marlow -  
Julie Newbold -  
Louisa Nisbett, Area Democratic Services Officer  
Jason Sheargold -

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

1019 The Chairman advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site ([www.birminghamnewsroom.com](http://www.birminghamnewsroom.com)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items.

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**APOLOGIES**

1020 Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Jon Hunt and Ray Hassall. An apology was also received from Inspector Noeleen Murrin, West Midlands Police who was due to attend to give an update on the Active Citizen's Funding.

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### **MINUTES**

1021 Page 8 – Councillor Linnecor clarified that the Ward Advisory Board was separate to the Ward Committee.

The Minutes of the last meeting on 14 July, 2016, having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

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### **COMMITTEE CODE OF CONDUCT**

1022 The Code of Conduct related to District Committees was received and noted.

(See document no. 1)

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### **PERRY BARR DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

1023 The following appointments were confirmed:-

- Corporate Parent Champion – Councillor Barbara Dring
  - Cultural Heritage Champion - Councillor Waseem Zaffar
  - Cycle Revolution Champion - Councillor Linnecor and Karen Trench
  - Regulation 44 Visits – Councillor Linnecor
  - Jobs and Skills Champion - Councillor Hendrina Quinnen
  - Health and Wellbeing Champion - Councillor Paulette Hamilton
  - Environmental Champion – During a brief discussion it was suggested and seconded that all the Ward Councillors act as Champions (**Councillor Tristan Chatfield – Lead**)
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### **ACTIVE CITIZEN'S FUNDING**

1024 This item was deferred.

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### **SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS**

1025 Dave Marlow, Julie Newbold and Jason Sheargold attended for this item.

During the presentation and discussion the following points were made:-

- The Local Authority coordinated the offer of school places children transferring from Infant to Junior Schools and in year admissions. An application was made to the school in the first instance.
- Schools had a legal duty to inform the Local Authority of the outcome of their admissions. The Local Authority was obligated to find every child a school place.
  
- They worked with all schools and gave them the opportunity to buy the Appeals Services from the Local Authority. Some schools such as Nishkam had bought the Appeals Service from the Local Authority to carry out their appeals.
  
- Reception - The Percentage of children offered their preferences were as follows:-
  - Handsworth Wood 94%
  - Lozells & East Handsworth 98%
  - Oscott 99%
  - Perry Barr 97%
  
- Secondary Transfers - Pupils could state a grammar school as a preference but all preferences were treated as equal. Offers were made to the highest preference with a space. Pupils offered one of their preferences were as follows:-
  - Handsworth Wood 95%
  - Lozells & East Handsworth 95%
  - Oscott 94%
  - Perry Barr 91%
  
- Councillor Chatfield queried the number of children entering Perry Barr from families outside of Birmingham also the numbers of children missing from school and whether it was an issue.
  
- Julie Newbold reported that some schools offered places directly. They were offered the nearest school with a place. The information was available through school place planning. For children missing, where a parent refused a school place they were tracked.
  
- Councillor Atwal asked that the information be emailed to Councillors and for the information to be provided using numbers rather than percentages. Councillor Atwal queried the number of places in each school. With regard to the 94% children in Handsworth Wood offered their first preference he said that he had been approached by parents and there seemed to be a need for more places. Councillor Atwal pointed out that sometimes families moved from one Ward to the next and found it difficult to get places in a school in the Ward causing difficulties with transport to school.
  
- Julie Newbold undertook to send an email with the data of children offered their first preference in infant and year 7 as requested. When a parent contacted them regarding a place they were advised to contact the local

schools about a place. If there were no places the child remained on role at their existing school until they secured a place.

- Dave Marlow was in attendance to report on school place planning. He reported that there was a basic need for annual cycle work to define the need for school place. This year there was the largest cohort children for receipt of reception level places and a lot of pressure for places owing to a lot of children migrating to the City. They looked at birth rates etc. however there were school places in the City.
- In reply to Councillor Dring's query on problems with siblings securing places at the same school and exclusions, there was a Missing Children's Team and Exclusion Team. She could arrange for a representative to attend a future meeting.
- In the event that there were more applicants than places the criteria for a school admission was Looked After Children, Siblings then faith schools.
- Councillor Zaffar thanked the officers for supporting Councillors daily with queries. He had been contacted by a lot of parents not satisfied with the place offered. He asked that the data from across the city be shared following the meeting.
- The information related to first and second preferences offered had been circulated in March and could be resent.
- In reply to Councillor Trench the 6% of children not offered their choice of place were offered a nearby school. There was a lot of waiting list movement between March and September therefore the figures changed. Parents also had the right to appeal.
- Councillor Kooner expressed concern that since the closure of the boys School there had been pressure on places in the area. A lot of children travelled to school. Councillor Kooner requested that some information be provided at Ward Level and referred to a recent case. The figures for Handsworth Wood were as follows:-
  - 65.58% offered 1<sup>st</sup> choice
  - 14% 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - 5.6 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - 3.2 4<sup>th</sup>
  - 3.79 5<sup>th</sup>
  - 1.9 6<sup>th</sup>
- Of the total children who transferred 20 had not been offered a preference for various reasons. 95% had been offered one of their preferred schools out of the 369 children who had transferred.
- Looked after Children in Care of the Local Authority were a priority and the Social Worker found them a place.

- Proof of address was a requirement. Schools Admissions took on board children that had moved address after October. The address was updated on 1<sup>st</sup> March.
- Councillor Paulette Hamilton said it was the first year there had been no major problems with Academies and asked how the Local Authority was involved in their appeals. Julie Newbold answered that the majority of schools bought the appeals service from the Local Authority. There was the option to advise which schools had vacancies during the appeals hearing.
- The vast majority of schools bought the appeal service giving parents the opportunity to have an appeal and to be advised what school places were available if their appeal was not upheld. They worked with academies facilitating their own appeals to ensure there was a fair process.
- Councillor Atwal spoke about siblings being placed at different schools and this caused a problem for parents. Julie Newbold answered that when a child was placed in a school in year it was made clear that there may not necessarily be a place for siblings. Often due to waiting list movements or appeal the matter could sometimes be resolved.
- Councillor Linnecor asked for more information about missing children in schools in the Oscott Ward.
- The Chairman thanked the officers who had attended the meeting and added that they were always helpful and attended meetings when requested.

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### **AMEY**

- 1026 There was no representative in attendance. Members expressed their disappointment that no one was in attendance following which the Chairman undertook to write on behalf of the Committee to express their concerns. Neil De-Costa undertook to pass on contact details of the drainage team to Councillor Atwal.

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### **FLEET AND WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- 1027 There was no representative in attendance.

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### **HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD (HTB) PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 1 2016-17**

The following report of the Service Director, Housing Transformation was submitted for information:-

(See document no. 2)

Members should send their questions to Neil De-Costa or the Chairman.

1028

**RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

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**CABINET COMMITTEE LOCAL LEADERSHIP**

1029

The following report was received and noted:-

- The Local Innovative Fund had been launched and 2 workshops had been arranged to look at innovative ways to use the funding.
- With regard to AMEY, a lot of Councillors had issues and it was important to look at the relationship with them. Councillor Kooner reported that the Assistant Leaders planned to meet with them to discuss how to address and resolve issues.
- Councillor Linnecor referred to LILA and Community Chest Funding in the past and hoped that that Wards were treated fairly and the process was simplified. Councillor Chatfield welcomed the funding however felt that there was need to change the funding as Community Chest had been satisfactory.
- Councillor Dring referred to the £48K across the Wards and the criteria. She stated that one size did not fit all and the Assistant Leaders had not made allowance for that especially in the Outer City Wards.
- Councillor Kooner said that the process was being looked at to consider how to simplify it. They were conscious that the funding needed to be spent by March. It gave Districts the opportunity for Districts to look at what they wanted to do in their area and create partnerships with community groups. Consideration was being made to having an officer to support the initiative and to look at securing match funding.
- Councillor Linnecor had reservations about the fact that an officer needed to assist. He hoped that the Wards received a fair share.
- Councillor Kooner encouraged the Councillors to attend one of the briefing sessions on 3 or 17 October at the Council House.
- Councillor Linnecor commented that if training was required then the initiative was too complicated. He stated that Community Chest had been straight forward and that everything should be self-explanatory and simple. Councillor Linnecor felt that the Council were in danger of changing the system when there was no need.

- Councillor Paulette Hamilton said that the idea was that the projects that were considered would address bigger issues than Community Chest did.
- Councillor Kooner said there was so many good projects across the City and this was an opportunity to learn from each other and share practices. The main reason for the sessions was to look at different ways of doing things and get a more holistic picture of the issue and work with the community to tackle it.
- Councillor Dring felt that the examples of projects that could be brought forward implied that they needed to be aligned with Cabinet Portfolios in which case clear criteria was needed how it could be use. She queried whether joint projects for the District as a whole were possible.
- Councillor Zaffar suggested that a 'wish list' be drawn up as soon as possible including some joint projects across the District eg Environmental Issues. Councillor Linnecor commented that following the last briefing session Neil De-Costa had circulated a project and received one response.
- Neil De-Costa spoke about Ward Plans and priorities across the District and some common themes that it was good to consider cross Ward projects for. The new Ward Tracker would help with priorities and the report produced highlighted the priorities across the areas. The process would be resident led and carried out at local level. All comments received were valid but this was the opportunity to things different. The related paperwork was not difficult. There were limited resources in the District. Reference was made to the Active Citizen Funding available from the police and aligning it with the priorities.
- Councillor Dring referred to Holford Drive stating that Oscott Ward had been generous in funding the project, whilst Lozells & East Handsworth had contributed a small amount and the other Wards had not contributed. If cross working was to take place it needed to be on an equal basis.
- Councillor Linnecor had raised the issue of the Active Citizens Scheme with the police. He felt it had been a waste of time for the small groups who had put in a lot of time and felt it had not been good for residents in Oscott.
- Councillor Kooner referred to the proposal form for the Local Innovation Fund and the Priorities. She added that LIF must add value and meet local priorities. Councillor Kooner reassured Members that the application form was a simple one.
- Neil De-Costa reported that Inspector Murrin had sent apologies for the meeting however it would be good to have some feedback in light of the response from residents.
- Councillor Hussain had expressed his views at the Cabinet meeting that there were many residents and voluntary groups however only one or two were active in the Ward, when they would all come forward to apply for LIF

funding. Councillor Hussain asked where the line would be drawn. He spoke about the success with the previous LILA funding in improving Alleyways, pavements and street lighting, so he felt that LILA funding had been successful.

- Councillor Kooner had been appointed as an Assistant Leader on 17 July, 2016. There had been some good work in communities and they wanted to give the opportunity for that to happen again as there had been a disconnect between Birmingham City Council, communities and businesses.
- Councillor Zaffar stated that Districts were an important part of democracy and despite some important issues being on the agenda representatives had not turned up. This was agreed by other Members. The Chairman undertook to follow the matter up.
- Councillor Paulette Hamilton felt that a lot of funds had been wasted by the old Community Chest Fund system. The new system was more focussed and needs based to look at issues in the Wards.
- Councillor Trench mentioned the importance of recognising the different needs for each of the Districts and the need for dialogue with officers.
- Councillor Dring gave credit to the officers from Education who had reported at the meeting and agreed to follow up the issues raised.

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### **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

1030

#### **RESOLVED:-**

The schedule of meetings was noted for future District Committee meetings in the Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB on the following Thursdays at 1500 hours:-

#### **Committee Room**

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|-------------------|---|
| 24 November, 2016 | 2 |
| 19 January, 2017  | 2 |
| 23 March, 2017    | 2 |

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### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1031

Items to be considered for future agendas were suggested as follows:-

Amey  
Fleet and Waste  
CCG  
Cabinet Committee Local Leadership

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**OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)**

1032 There was no other urgent business.

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**AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

1033 **RESOLVED:-**

That in an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

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The meeting ended at 1615 hours.

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CHAIRMAN