

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

TRUST AND CHARITIES COMMITTEE 12 JUNE 2023

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TRUSTS AND CHARITIES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 12 JUNE 2023
AT 1030 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA
SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillor Marcus Bernasconi in the Chair.

Councillors Kath Scott, David Pears and Mumtaz Hussain.

ALSO, PRESENT: -

Paul Ruffle – Senior Travel Demand Officer
Rajesh Parmar – Legal Services
Sofia Mirza – Committee Services

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NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 1109 It was noted that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite ([please click this link](#)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1110 None declared.

APOLOGIES

- 1111 Councillors Basharat Mahmood, Lisa Trickett and Maureen Cornish.

MINUTES

- 1112 The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 May 2023, having been circulated, were confirmed by the Committee and signed by the Chair.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE AND CHAIR

The appointment of the Committee and Chair was noted by the members.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Councillor Kath Scott was elected as the Deputy Chair.

TERMS AND REFERENCE OF THE TRUST AND CHARITIES COMMITTEE

The Terms and Reference of the Committee were noted by the Committee.

REPORT NO. 8 – YOUNG ACTIVE TRAVEL TRUST GRANTS

The Senior Travel Demand officer presented the report to members on behalf of the Assistant Director of Transport and Connectivity. The officer explained that it was his role to promote safe and sustainable travel to school, to see less congestion outside the school gates, and have less people coming to school in the car whilst promoting a sustainable means of travelling to school.

The school that wished to apply for funding of the grant must have registered to Motive Stars, which is a national programme funded by the Department of Transport. The programme promotes sustainable travel to school. The school must have completed a school travel survey within 12 months starting from September 2022. The Travel Survey asked two questions of the staff and the pupils: How do you currently travel to school and how would you prefer to travel to school? From the answers of the Travel Survey, the school must have started to write their school travel plan, which shows how they will make changes to the school journeys. Applications were invited from schools during the spring term this year between the 9th of January and the 31st of March.

The applications were examined by the assessment panel on 5th April. Members of the panel included Paul Ruffle and Mandy Slater from the Travel Demand Team. The applications were presented to the Transport Highways Group on the 20th of April and the Transport Highways Board on the 28th of April and were then submitted to the Trust and Charities Committee. There were 7 wards that requested funding from the young Active Travel Trust. These were Alan's cross Garretts, Green Kingstanding, Northfield Sutton, Four Oaks Sutton roughly and wheelie, and Selly Oak. The seven schools have registered and completed their school travel plans, and they met the criteria for this funding.

There were seven applications, each £1000. On 17th January, the remaining balance of the fund was £44,836.35. If the seven applications were successful, it would leave a balance of the fund of £37,836.35 available going forward into the summer term and into next academic year.

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RESOLVED: -

The report was agreed by members.

REPORT NO. 9 – BIRMINGHAM MUNICIPAL TRUST - ACCOUNTS

The Chair noted that after being elected as the Chair he was aware that the Municipal charity had not provided an annual return since 2021. Officers were asked to provide an update on the progress of accounting responsibilities.

The Finance Manager presented an update to the members, it was noted that within the upcoming weeks an update would be provided. The Chair stated that he would like to carry this conversation into the next meeting with historical governance documents or business plans for the charity that has been created over the last 5 years.

1114

RESOLVED: -

It was agreed by the Committee that the item would be discussed further at the next meeting.

REPORT NO. 10 - HIGHBURY TRUST – A REPORT ON PROPERTY MATTERS ON DECISION BY COUNCIL AS TRUSTEE

The City Solicitor gave an overview of the report which would be going to city council the following day.

The purpose of the report was to obtain a decision in principle. There were some developments with funding. It was stated that Highbury was in a position to access the lottery funding.

There were two main aspects of the report. The first aspect was to grant a lease to Chamberlain Hybrid trust for 125 years. Once this is in place, then this would release a lottery funding. The second item on the report was the disposal of the Chamberlain House, which is adjacent to higher Highbury Hall, next to Ofcom, ask the school to dispose of it, to remove it from the trust and into the ownership of the City Council, to carry out educational activity.

At both, those objectives required consent to the Charity Commission, so report gave consent to officers to speak to the Charity Commission in order to obtain both the scheme and in order to facilitate those two objectives.

Once the report went ahead and the decision was made, discussions would take place with the charity, the Chairman, Hybrid Trust, the Charities Commission and would see how to move this this matter forward. The intention at present was for the lease to be granted, sometime next year. There was preparation work being undertaken by the Chamberlain Highbury trust and there would be some further negotiations around the heads of terms and the draft lease. It also asked for permission to seek independent legal advice.

Councillor Pears asked if there were any objections to the proposal. The City Solicitor replied and stated that there are no objections. The Council was keen to obtain ownership of Chamberlain House, there would be further consultation and public consultation undertaken.

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RESOLVED: -

The report was noted by the committee.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None submitted.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

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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.

The meeting ended 1044 hours.

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CHAIR