

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**SELLY OAK DISTRICT
COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 29 JUNE 2017**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SELLY OAK DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 29 JUNE 2017 AT 1030 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

PRESENT: - Councillor Karen McCarthy in the Chair

Councillors Susan Barnett, Alex Buchanan, Phil Davis, Barry Henley,
Timothy Huxtable, Mary Locke and Eva Phillips.

ALSO PRESENT: -

Karen Cheney - Selly Oak District Head/Lead for Community
Marie Reynolds - Legal and Democratic Services

NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

422 The District Committee were advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site and members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

At this juncture the Chairman handed over the Chair to Karen Cheney, Selly Oak District Head and Service Lead for Community Governance and Support for the Committee to elect an Executive Member and Deputy Executive Member for Selly Oak District for the 2017/2018 municipal Year.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

On the receipt of nominations, it was:-

423 **RESOLVED:** -

- a) That Councillor Karen McCarthy be elected Executive Member for Selly Oak District for 2017/2018, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

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- b) That Councillor Alex Buchanan be appointed Committee Vice-Chairman for the 2017/2018 Municipal Year, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

(Councillor Karen McCarthy in the Chair)

APOLOGIES

- 424 Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Brigid Jones, Changese Khan, Mike Leddy and Rob Sealey. An apology was also submitted on behalf of Steve McCabe, MP.

The business of the meeting and all discussions in relation to individual reports was available for public inspection via the web-stream.

MINUTES

- 425 The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 29 March 2017 having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

- 426 The membership of the Committee was noted as follows: -

Councillors Philip Davis, Alex Buchanan and Susan Barnett (Billesley Ward).

Councillors Mary Locke, Rob Sealey and Timothy Huxtable (Bournville Ward).

Councillors Eva Phillips, Mike Leddy and Dr Barry Henley (Brandwood Ward).

Councillors Karen McCarthy, Changese Khan and Brigid Jones (Selly Oak Ward).

Co-opted Members:-

West Midlands Fire Service Representative

West Midlands Police Representative

2 District Housing Panel Members

1 Member of the Youth Council

The Committee agreed for the co-option to continue with regard to West Midlands Fire Service and West Midland Police and that consideration be given at a later date for the co-option to continue of the Housing Panel.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES FUNCTIONS AND GUIDELINES

The following schedule of District Committee Functions and Guidelines were submitted:-

(See document No. 1)

Karen Cheney, Selly Oak District Head highlighted that under 'Executive functions' Approval of grants from the Local Innovation Fund (from April 2016) should be removed, as it was the Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership Committee that was responsible for the approval of grants from the Local Innovation Fund .

427 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Functions and Guidelines be noted.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The following Code of Conduct for District Committees was submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

428 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Code of Conduct for meetings of the District Committee be noted.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2017/2018

429 **RESOLVED: -**

That the Selly Oak District Committee meet on Thursdays at 1030 hours, at the Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB on the following dates:-

2017

27 July, 7 September and 16 November 2017

2018

26 January and 16 March 2018

DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2017/2018

430 (a) **Corporate Parenting Champion**

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Susan Barnett be appointed the Corporate Parenting Champion for Selly Oak District.

(b) Dementia Champion

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Karen McCarthy be appointed the Dementia Champion for Selly Oak District.

(c) District Parent Partnership Champion

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Susan Barnett be appointed the District Parent Partnership Champion for Selly Oak District.

(d) Cultural and Heritage Champion

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Phil Davis be appointed the Cultural and Heritage Champion for Selly Oak District.

(e) Jobs and Skills Champion

That a member be appointed the Jobs and Skills Champion for Selly Oak District.

(f) Youth Champion

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Mike Leddy be appointed the Youth Champion for Selly Oak District.

CABINET COMMITTEE LOCAL LEADERSHIP “CONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND ASSETS PILOT”

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The Chair explained how the pilot had originated from the Assistant Leaders and confirmed that the district after some discussion had felt that as Druids Heath was well-developed that it need not be part of the pilot and subsequently highlighted the areas in the three wards that were being focused on.

Karen Cheney provided a brief background on the asset based community approach that the City Council were taking with regard to looking at assets rather than just buildings and people and how they could be best used to support communities and local neighbourhoods.

She highlighted that there were now leads for the particular areas of wards within the district and that there was a Steering Group which included the two district Chairs and Councillor Tony Kennedy, Assistant Leader, adding that members within the particular wards would receive the relevant notification explaining the reasons as to why their particular areas had been chosen.

She reported on the two workshops that they would be running in order to assist members in the different way of looking at public assets as potential assets. She

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confirmed that the workshops would be taking place on 12 July 2017 at Stirchley Baths and that the invitation was not only to elected members but to all stakeholders and anyone that was interested in contributing. She added that they were looking to possibly run the workshops twice resulting in the information being fed into the working piece relating to connecting communities and assets which would in turn be fed back to Cabinet Committee Local Leadership and Economy.

The Chair highlighted that the pilot project was not to take anything away from any issues on the ground but rather that the resources of the city were linked up with people's aspirations for their areas. She added that she hoped people would want to get involved.

In response to a comment from Councillor Huxtable that public pathways, public rights of way, rear driveways and street furniture across the district could be linked into connecting communities, the Chair agreed that it was a good idea and should be included as an agenda item for the next district meeting.

In response to a further comment from Councillor Huxtable relating to the lack of address of orphan lamp columns, orphan pathways and associated issues, the Chair believed that it was Highways that were dealing with this piece of work and agreed to progress the matter in time for the next district meeting.

LOCAL INNOVATION FUND WITHIN SELLY OAK DISTRICT

432 The Chair highlighted that Cabinet Committee Local Leadership Committee had met yesterday and confirmed that all the wards within Selly Oak district had submitted proposals for approval.

Karen Cheney provided a brief update on the Local Innovation Fund. It was noted that to date there were 63 Ward LIF Proposals that the NDSU were currently aware of with 43 proposals having progressed through the LIF process and had been put forward to Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership for approval.

Generally it seemed that LIF had given a focus to the new style ward meetings and acted as a catalyst for meaningful community engagement between Members in their local leadership role and local residents and community groups on ward priorities and “doing things differently in neighbourhoods to make better places to live.”

Ward Proposals had been developed across the full spectrum of City Core priorities alongside the specific overarching LIF neighbourhood priorities around active citizenship and communities stepping up, independence, new approaches to investment, cleaner streets and improving local centres.

It was noted that Ward Proposals had ranged from very small allocation of resources through to more transformative amounts of funding. Through the Proposal Forms that had been put forward to Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership it was indicating that there were a great number of citizens volunteering an enormous amount of their time within their neighbourhoods which showed the high social value to the City of active citizenship and volunteering that could be tapped into but also that needs to be supported and strengthened.

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The development of Community Hubs and Networks were emerging as a strong theme demonstrating the importance of “anchors” in neighbourhoods and communication links and networks between local groups, helping to strengthen neighbourhoods.

From bottom up ‘grassroots’ communities were stepping up to develop and co-produce delivery of public services and/or assets which were complementing and adding value to top down BCC services which included library services and information and advice.

Reference was made to neighbourhoods supporting each other with regard to upskilling and strengthening local infrastructure in order to make more sustainable. There was also the putting forward of joint ward proposals and multi ward proposals which enabled cross ward working and greater value for money and outcomes. It was noted that LIF had provided the opportunity to experiment and try new things in neighbourhoods.

It was noted that intervention and prevention by investing at an earlier stage at a bottom up neighbourhood level would save costs when issues became acute which could pertain to health terms.

Karen stated that there would be an external evaluation on the LIF process and proposals which would be commissioned later in the year which would focus on learning and what had worked well and not so well. All of the proposals would have an internal evaluation via NDSU.

The Chair highlighted that it was a good example of cross boundary working in Selly Oak, Billesley, and Brandwood and also cross party working in Bournville. She added that if members had not yet produced their reports regarding their proposals there was a number of proposals across the city that they could look at.

In response to a question from Councillor Huxtable relating to whether the City Council would revert back to its original proposal for the LIF budget if projects proved to be successful and could continue, the Chair confirmed that it depended upon budgetary pressures and the particular challenges that would have to be met with the new ward boundary changes post 2018. She stated that if it gave a solid base of good practice then there was always scope to take projects forward subject to budgetary constraints.

She added that it was worth doing well as it would make a difference in the one year programme and also it would provide a body of evidence that may suggest that the City Council could look at external funding as neighbourhoods. She highlighted the importance of getting the money spent and making the changes in the neighbourhoods and to then progress from there.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR INFORMAL DISTRICT MEETING AROUND ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

- 433 The Chair whilst highlighting that there was no representative from Highways reported the reasons why there had been no informal meeting regarding road safety and suggested that a meeting be convened over the next four to six weeks.

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At this juncture, Karen Cheney apologised for the lack of officer representation highlighting that both she and the Committee Clerks had invited officer from Highways following the district committee's request at the last meeting.

In response to Councillor Phillips' suggestion that an informal meeting take place and that it be live streamed through social media in order that people could see their concerns being addressed, the Chair considered this to be a good idea.

In response to a comment from Councillor Huxtable that it was important that the correct officers from Transportation and Growth rather than Highways were invited to the meeting, the Chair agreed to take this point on board.

In response to a comment from Councillor Davis to investigate the reason why officers had not attended, the Chair agreed to progress the matter.

Karen Cheney suggested that the road safety issues could be considered at the next meeting.

The Chair stated that consideration would be given as to whether it was taken as a separate meeting or part of the district meeting.

DISTRICT WORK PROGRAMME

- 434 Karen Cheney introduced the work programme and highlighted that once she had updated the programme with the relevant information she would circulate to members.

Following several comments from Councillor Huxtable relating to the implementation of the sprinkler programme, the Druids Heath Master Plan and the Environmental Capital Budget, the Chair confirmed that she would try to obtain an update on the Environmental Capital Budget for the next meeting and agreed take on board the other items.

FEEDBACK FROM SELLY OAK WARDS: BILLESLEY, BOURNVILLE, BRANDWOOD AND SELLY OAK

- 435 The Chair highlighted the CocoMAD Festival scheduled for Saturday, 1 July 2017 at Cotteridge Park as 12 noon that would be taking place.

Councillor Phillips highlighted the Monyhall Church Community Day scheduled for Saturday, 8 July 2017 which would include lots of free activities for children.

Councillor Locke highlighted the Bournville Park Picnic scheduled for Sunday, 9 July 2017.

Councillor Davis reported on the Heritage Week which was scheduled for Thursday, 7 September through to Sunday, 17 September 2017 that was a series of events taking place across the city and was supported by the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. He suggested that if any members would like to attend the Heritage Strategy Group at the Museum and Art Gallery on Friday, 7 July 2017 at 10:45 they would be quite welcome and it would enable them to gain an insight on some of the strategic issues.

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The Chair highlighted that Birmingham Opera Company; the District Arts Champions had been awarded the National Portfolio Organisation Status by the Arts Council which includes uplift in their grant in order to extend the work they are undertaking with local communities. She added that it was very much appreciated what they had done in Selly Oak.

In response to a comment from Councillor Huxtable, the Chair believed that a number of schools within the district had mini bears going on display this week, adding that maps and apps would be available shortly relating to the Big Sleuth.

She concluded by congratulating the schools that had taken part and the fact that it was in all aid of the Children's Hospital which was a great art and activity project.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

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RESOLVED: -

Chairman to move:-

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

The meeting ended at 1127 hours.

CHAIRMAN