

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**SUTTON COLDFIELD
DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MONDAY 23
NOVEMBER 2015**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUTTON
COLDFIELD DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON
MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 1700 HOURS IN
COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, THE COUNCIL HOUSE,
BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT : - Councillor Anne Underwood in the Chair;

Councillors David Barrie, Lyn Collin, Andrew Hardie, Meirion Jenkins, Ewam Mackay, David Pears, Robert Pocock, Margaret Waddington and Ken Wood.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS :- Lorna Steers – Housing Liaison Board
Eric Shipton – Housing Liaison Board
Kevin Eades – West Midlands Fire Service
Supt Brandon Langley – West Midlands Police.

ALSO PRESENT :-

Gary Ladbrooke – District Head (Sutton Coldfield)
Carol Dawson – Senior Service Manager
Patrick Canavan – Senior Service Manager
Sarah Stride – Committee Manager

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed the two young visitors that were in attendance at the meeting.

NOTICE OF RECORDING

32 The Chairman advised that the meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site (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.

APOLOGIES

33 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Maureen Cornish and Alex Yip for their inability to attend the meeting.

MINUTES

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RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 21 September 2015, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson..

Matters Arising

Referring to page 12 of the Minutes (Minute No.21), Councillor Pears requested an update on the latest position with regard to Wyndley Leisure Centre and Serco following operational changes to the Centre.

He also made reference to page 18 (Minute No. 27) and requested an update on the issue regarding the poor wheelie bin collection service and the problem of fly-tipping in Carhampton Road. He explained that the issue was raised again at the Trinity Ward Committee as it appeared that the problem had not been resolved due to the absence of a co-ordinated approach by both the Housing and Waste Management Services.

Gary Ladbroke, District Head (Sutton Coldfield) responded and stated that he had arranged for the appropriate officer to attend the next meeting of this District Committee to give further explanation with regard to the proposed management structure at Wyndley Leisure Centre.

In relation to the concerns regarding Carhampton Road he explained that he had liaised with the Housing Officer and it was currently work in progress and that he would monitor the situation.

Councillor Pocock introduced the two young visitors at the meeting and requested that they each ask a question to the Chairperson.

Abbie – (Page 14 – The Big Hoot 2015) Have we managed to keep any of the decorative owls in Sutton Coldfield?

The Chairman replied that the Business Improvement District managed to collect over £6,000 to buy the owl that was in the vicinity of the College and there was also an owl situated in the Town Centre which was purchased by a local business. She advised that the sale of the owls was a great success and had raised over £500,000 for the Children's Hospital.

Edward – (Top of page 17) Do you have any further details on how the Youth Promise will work?

Councillor Jenkins responded and stated that he had been asking the Cabinet Member the very same question for some time and he was still awaiting an answer on what makes up a Youth Promise and what were the consequences if it failed to deliver. He concluded that he was unable to add any further information from that what was discussed at the last meeting.

Councillor Hardie made reference to Minute No.30, page 22 of the Minutes and requested whether a response had been given to the petition he submitted at the last meeting regarding the Flat doors at Boldmere Close.

The Chairman requested that Carol Dawson and Patrick Canavan, Housing Department investigate and respond directly to Councillor Hardie on their findings.

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 35 Councillor Pears advised that information on the Sports Awards had been launched in the Sutton Observer. There are thirteen categories in total. The closing date for all nominations is 17 December 2015.

The Sports Award Ceremony will take place on 29 January 2016

Nomination forms are available at info@suttoncoldfieldsportsawards.co.uk. Forms can be completed online or posted to the address listed on the form.

PETITION

Air Pollution Petition by Ecosutton

- 36 The following petition was submitted by Councillor Waddington on behalf of Ecosutton:-

“ There are four main issues that need to be considered –

1. To both reinstate and increase the number of Air Pollution monitors to allow coverage throughout the City.
2. To collect and collate detailed information on pollution levels.
3. For the information to be put in the public domain as soon as possible and for updates to be made available on a monthly basis.
4. To establish a Working Party who will report to the BCC Cabinet with an action plan for implementation.

We wish to make it very clear that is being raised as a cross Party issue.”

The Chairperson requested that the petition be referred to the Cabinet Member for consideration and appropriate action.

SHELTERED HOUSING

A written presentation entitled ‘Services for Older People’ was circulated at the meeting:

(See Document No. 1)

Carol Dawson, Senior Service Manager introduced the written presentation and made the following additional comments:

- A review on Sheltered Housing was being undertaken. The need to undertake a review is due to the increase in challenges in responding to the needs of elderly people – a growing population and reduced service budgets for care.

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- As a directorate the City Council lost the 'Supporting People' funding 18 months ago. The funding lost amounted to £3.1 million. This funding was used to support the wardens/support officer's role. As an interim measure HRA funding was put in place to support the Sheltered Housing and Care line service.
- There was a need to investigate the City Council's stock and make best use of all resources available – are demand issues in some of the Sheltered Housing schemes.
- The scope of the review is:
 - To consider how the Council can meet the needs of older people in the absence of funding.
 - Identify those schemes that are not fit for purpose – focus on sheltered high rise.
 - Tender for the assistive technology contract – currently 2 providers of an alarm service in Birmingham and looking to bring both providers together to form a more holistic service.
 - Consider how the review impacts on the wider review of older people's services as part of the future Council programme.
 - Making the best use of the Council's stock:
 - In Birmingham there is 4890 units of sheltered accommodation divided across 126 sheltered housing schemes.
 - 4 extra care
 - 9 category II schemes that are purpose built and linked by a corridor.
 - 77 category I schemes – some purpose built and some designated as sheltered housing,
 - 37 sheltered high rise. The focus of the review on the stock is on high rise sheltered accommodation. In the Sutton Coldfield District there are 2 high rise schemes, one at Park Court and the other at Herron Court. Park Court does not give rise to concerns in the letting of units. Herron Court does cause issues at times.
 - Methodology used when reviewing schemes:
 - Housing demand for a scheme and the number of proposed tenants on the waiting list for high rise accommodation. 15 people are currently placed on the waiting list for high rise accommodation.
 - Currently have approximately 120 vacant units across all sheltered housing stock.
 - Support needs.
 - Location of schemes – Park Court is sited in an excellent location with all the facilities that older people require.
 - Other sheltered stock within an area, including all registered social housing landlord partners.
 - Impact of welfare reform. A number of the high rise schemes are two bedroomed and if the resident is under the age of 61 years old then they will be impacted by the welfare reform and will be required to pay the under occupancy surcharge which could result in a negative impact on letting 2 bedroomed properties. The introduction of Universal Credit will also impact occupants of sheltered housing who are of working age.
 - Whether a scheme meets the needs of older people – can it accommodate mobility scooters – most of the high rise schemes cannot meet this need. Look at the availability of lifts in a scheme, whether showers can be installed.
 - Profiling of information – Sutton Coldfield District has the highest number of older people in the City with Northfield District being the second highest.

- The Council's approach:
- Exploring a proposal to change some sheltered high rise into general needs housing. This is in response to the issues outlined in the methodology.
- Pilot scheme carried out at Stanley's Tower in Erdington District to test out the Council's consultation approach and the potential offer to customers.
- Consulted with the City Housing Liaison Board and the District Boards.
- Approval has been given by the Cabinet Member.
- The consultation process is a one on one discussion with customers. Do have an offer for tenant's that asks them if they want to transfer to another property with support provided to them. Re-designating the scheme so can give additional points to allow a property move. Have approval to give tenant's wishing to move an incentive in terms of paying removal costs, the installation of appliances from the old property to the new and also support them in the bidding process as elderly people do have concerns through the choice based letting scheme. Tenant's will have the option of remaining on the care line scheme if they so desire.
- Eight options available:
 1. Do nothing – but not a viable option.
Discontinue the service with effect from 1 April 2016. However, aware that older people need and want the service.
 2. Increase service charges. However, housing benefit will only pay for a certain element of the service so although a possibility will need to remodel the service.
 3. Fully fund the service through the Housing Revenue Account. However, this would result in the discontinuation of another service.
 4. Identify alternative funding - have made a bid to the Better Care Fund to fund the hospital discharge service.
 5. Sell/lease some sheltered stock. Has been tried successfully in one scheme in Sutton Coldfield – Ludford Close is leased to MENCAP.
 6. Discussions have taken place with the People Directorate to commission a support service or to take over the management of the service. However, the Directorate has indicated that it does not have the necessary funding.
 7. Establishing a different delivery model that includes older people in the community who live in general needs housing.
- Hospital discharge service:
 - The service was set up in 2010 following the City being fined to assist with delayed discharges where the delay was due to housing issues.
 - 280 referrals from Good Hope, Queen Elizabeth and Solihull hospitals in the last financial year.
 - Service currently being funded through the Housing Revenue Account.
- Care line – support and reassurance 24 hours a day, 365 days a year:
 - Based at Lancaster Circus.
 - 13000 connections – from both Council tenant's and owner occupiers, private sector tenant's and registered social landlord tenants who have an alarm on the wall or a pendant worn around the neck or their wrist.
 - Tele care services accredited service and inspected annually to ensure compliance with regulations. The service is funded by the Housing Revenue Account and currently reviewing the charges for the care line service – the current charge is £1.87. The contract is currently with Tunstall which was due to expire March 2016 but has now been extended until September 2016. The service provides equipment to

ensure that tenants are able to remain in their property and not go into hospital or residential care.

- The next steps::
 - Need to consider the risks.
 - Timescales are a real issue.
 - Currently exploring options 3 and 8. As an interim measure the Housing Revenue Account will continue to support both services.
 - Working with tenants on an individual basis due to sensitivities.

The Chairman thanked Carol Dawson for her informative verbal report.

In response to a question raised by the Chairman Carol Dawson undertook to provide the statistical information to all Members on the actual number of the 280 hospital referrals identified that were dealt with successfully.

In response to questions raised by Members, Carol Dawson gave assurances that the consultation exercise was a one on one discussion with customers. If every tenant in a high rise sheltered accommodation scheme expressed a wish to remain in their current location then they will not be re-designated. This will ensure that tenants who have formed a community with their neighbours in the high rise will remain in place and will not be moved. She stated that measures were taken to ensure that all tenants moving into high rise accommodation were suitable to do so and would not cause nuisance to existing tenants. During the consultation process a quality impact assessment is carried out on all proposed schemes and the results of that assessment would determine the final outcome.

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RESOLVED:-

That the verbal report on sheltered housing be noted and that a progress report be submitted in 3 months.

BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME
ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS BUDGET

The following report of the Strategic Director Place was submitted:

(See Document No.2)

Patrick Canavan introduced the report and highlighted the salient points.

It was –

38

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the progress in connection with the projects initiated in 2014/15 be noted;
- (ii) That approval be given to all the projects outlined in appendix 2 attached to the report;
- (iii) That the budget position statement provided at appendix 3 attached to the report be noted.

SUTTON COLDFIELD DISTRICT CONVENTION

39

The Chairman advised that she had written to the Leader of the Council to inform him that she did not feel that it was possible for Sutton Coldfield to hold a meaningful District Convention before the end of the calendar year due to several reasons mainly the lack of staff within the District to give the time to produce a quality event. The establishment of the Town Council must take priority and as the District Head currently services 2 Districts in the City staffing resources within the Sutton Coldfield District has been severely reduced. The future of the Town Hall has also put a strain on staffing resources.

The Chairman proposed that the Convention should be held in February 2016 by which time the steering group for the Town Council will be well established.

It was requested that the Leader take into consideration as mitigation for the decision that arriving from the last very successful District Convention a number of major issues to be addressed were identified and following on from this and jointly with local health partners and public health officers some very successful local dementia training awareness has been held. Further sessions are planned to which local businesses and the retail sector will be invited to attend by the BID and/or the Chamber of Commerce. False prevention and the need for activity amongst our older residents is also on the agenda working in part with MyTime Active who are very interested in this issue.

In addition we have under the Chairmanship of Councillor Hardie established the membership of a Health and Wellbeing Committee for Sutton Coldfield which includes local partners such as the CCG and Hospital.

Another concern to arise was that of jobs and skills training and Councillor Jenkins has held a meeting very recently with local stakeholders to take the issue forward. We are aware that we have the lowest jobless figures in the City but the argument is that Sutton Coldfield can offer opportunities for youngsters from local areas less fortunate than ourselves that could lead to meaningful careers and this is one of the issues that I have personally addressed with Councillor Josh Jones when discussing how we can work together for the benefit of the whole of North Birmingham.

I do hope that you w (the Leader) would be able to accept what is a very genuine request for assistance at this time of great pressure on resources and grant an extension until 28 February 2016.

Members endorsed the communication sent by the Chairman to the Leader and agreed to circulate the letter to all Members of the Sutton Coldfield District.

TAKING THE COUNCIL TO THE PEOPLE

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The District Head advised that the issue was one of 10 events which brought to each of the Districts a consultation exercise to look at what the City Council might look like as a future Council and to get an idea of the view of the citizens around the City in terms of taking the Council forward. The first exercise undertook was

to ask about 50 people that were at the Sutton event what the Council would look like in 2020 with issues such as being in control of its own destiny, well managed, financially sound and well organised, integrated social care with the NHS and the commissioning groups and the City Council and partners, better communication, quality services but essential services, being imaginative with its partners but not always the City Council taking the lead or providing everything. Promoting the good things that the City Council does and being less reactive and more proactive.

The City is proposing at the moment that we look at 4 broad groups as this is where the bulk of the money is currently being spent. The groups are prevent family breakdown, maximise independence of adults, sustainable neighbourhoods and economic growth and jobs.

The report is currently in draft form and the intention is that the recommendations will help shape the budget for the City Council..

The consultation exercise will commence on 9 December 2015 and recommendations therein will feed into the Cabinet report to be discussed at the end of February 2016.

Members expressed concern that only 50 residents were in attendance at the event and asked whether there was any other way to engage with the public. It was also suggested that the consultation exercise should take place in the evening to capture those residents in full time employment.

The District Head requested that Members share information with their local residents and encourage them to attend the consultation event.

SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN HALL

- 41 The District Head advised that the information he would provide was very brief as discussions were still ongoing.

The Sutton Coldfield Arts and Recreation Trust is in the process of being established and have submitted their business case. Once the business case has been finalised it would be submitted with a recommendation to the Deputy Leader as soon as possible with the way forward.

SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

- 42 The Chairman advised that 3 meetings of the Steering Group have been held to discuss the way forward and to identify issues to be discussed. At the last meeting there were a number of residents in attendance but it was disappointing when given the opportunity to ask questions residents questioned the membership and constitution of the Town Council.

Political and non-political parties need to identify 24 candidates by May 2016 and we need to ensure that the new Town Council will operate with the benefit of the citizens of Sutton Coldfield.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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RESOLVED:-

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Sutton Coldfield District Committee be held on Monday 15 February 2016 at 1700 hours in Committee Rooms 3 & 4, The Council House, Birmingham.

UPDATE FROM WARD CHAIRMEN AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS

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Supt Brandon Langley, West Midlands Police gave a brief presentation and responded appropriately to questions raised and assured Members that Neighbourhood Policing will be included in the proposals for the future.

DISTRICT WORK PROGRAMME 2015 - 2016

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The District Head advised that the following issues will be included in the District work programme for a future meeting:

- Sport and Leisure
 - Budget 2016/17
 - Neighbourhood Challenge
 - Jobs and skills.
-

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)

46

No items of other urgent business was raised.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

47

RESOLVED:-

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 1820 hours.

CHAIRMAN