

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**YARDLEY DISTRICT
COMMITTEE
24 NOVEMBER 2016**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE YARDLEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2016 AT 1330 HOURS
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillors Sue Anderson, Nawaz Ali, Zaker Choudhry, Basharat Dad, Neil Eustace, Roger Harmer, Zafar Iqbal, Carol Jones, John O'Shea and Mike Ward.

ALSO PRESENT: -

Richard Davies	- District Lead
Greg Jones	- Birmingham Education Partnership
Mark Rodgers	- Contract Team Manager
Dave Keen	- West Midlands Police
Adrian Whitehouse	- Station Commander, West Midlands Fire Service
Arthur Tsang	- Acting Senior Housing Manager
Marie Reynolds	- Area Democratic Services Officer

NOTICE OF RECORDING

402 The District Committee was 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.

APOLOGIES

403 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Stacey and Tilsley for their inability to attend the meeting and Councillor Choudhry that may have to prematurely leave due to a further engagement.

MINUTES

404 The Minutes of the meeting of the Yardley District Committee held on 29 September 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

It was noted that Councillor Basharat Dad remained for the duration of the above-mentioned meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

405 No declarations were submitted

PETITIONS

406 There were no petitions submitted to the meeting.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

407 The following appointments were noted:-

East Birmingham Local Community Safety Partnership – Councillor Sue Anderson

Jobs and Skills Project Board – Councillor Sue Anderson

Yardley District Health Partnership – Councillor Sue Anderson

Following a discussion regarding the above-mentioned appointments, Councillor Basharat Dad agreed to be a substitute for Councillor Sue Anderson.

Councillor Sue Anderson confirmed that although she was willing to take the lead on the above appointments, advised members that they could also attend the meetings and agreed to provide members with the dates of when they were taking place.

**BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME
ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS BUDGET 2016/17**

The following report of the Strategic Director was submitted:-

(See document No. 1)

Arthur Tsang, Acting Senior Housing Manager presented the report and referred to Appendix 1 highlighting that the only project that had not been completed was 86-104 Church Lane and 12-26 Stud Lane and that work would commence on 17 November 2016.

At this juncture Mark Rodgers, Contract Team Manager confirmed that the above-mentioned projects would be completed by the end of the calendar year.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Arthur Tsang and Mark Rodgers for attending the meeting and presenting.

Upon further consideration it was:-

408 **RESOLVED:-**

That the District Committee:-

Noted the progress in connection with the projects previously initiated at Appendix 1.

Approved the projects outlined at Appendix 2.

Noted the budget position statement provided at Appendix 3.

**HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT
QUARTER 2 2016/17 & YARDLEY DISTRICT NARRATIVE**

The following report of the Service Director, Housing Transformation and narrative was submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

Arthur Tsang, Acting Senior Housing Manager, whilst presenting the narrative, the Chair highlighted that the report had been circulated to members via email.

In response to a question from Councillor Harmer relating to homes of multiple-occupancy (HMO) inspections regarding the proportion that were inspected in the year, the proportion responsive to complaints and those that were routinely inspected, Arthur Tsang confirmed that he would liaise with the department for the relevant information.

In response to a further question from Councillor Harmer as to why 'Think Family' cases in Yardley District differed from other parts of the city where there seemed to be more of a decline, Arthur Tsang confirmed that the cases in the east side of the city tended to be more consistent as the families had more complex needs and therefore were dealt with over a longer period of time. He agreed to provide more detailed information relating to this area of work.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Arthur Tsang for attending the meeting and reporting.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

409

RESOLVED:-

That the report and comments be noted.

**BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (BEP) – SUPPORTING
SCHOOLS IN YARDLEY DISTRICT AND THEIR OUTCOMES**

Greg Jones, Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) presented the following information:-

(See document No. 3)

Greg Jones referred to the detail within the information which explained the methodology used for determining how schools were identified and included on the BEP priority list.

He confirmed that seven Yardley Primary Schools were on the priority list and subsequently detailed the levels of improvement and support that they were receiving. He confirmed that the District Engagement Leads worked with all the schools in the districts to ensure that they were not left isolated. It was noted that where there was an identification of agreed needs and vulnerabilities, these would be raised with the School Improvement team in order to broker appropriate intervention.

Priority Leads made regular visits to priority schools as well as representatives from BEP, whereupon 'health checks' were carried out fortnightly by BEP with Priority Leads, and where ratings were reviewed, and if necessary, support and monitoring would be amended accordingly.

It was noted that although BEP in conjunction with the statutory authority of Birmingham City Council had issued seven performance and standards warning notices during the 2015-16 none of these had been issued to any schools in Yardley.

Greg Jones referred to members' comments and suggestions and highlighted that they would be most useful in developing the report for District Committee. He confirmed that the information could be provided to members regarding; the schools' names on the priority list, their aims, the themes affecting those schools and the actions taken. With regard to councillors having more of an involvement he suggested that this could possibly be with the School Improvement Board and therefore agreed to take back and raise with the appropriate officers.

Greg Jones referred to the differences in the performance of primary and secondary schools against national figures, whereupon it was highlighted, that Birmingham performed better than national in terms of secondary than primary and agreed to provide the relevant information within the next report. He referred to the warning notices which BEP were involved with and highlighted that in terms of the risk notices that were issued in the last academic year these were as a result of the regional schools commissioner requesting that they be issued.

Greg Jones referred to the use of Ofsted and detailed the various ways in which it was used as a vehicle to indicate vulnerability or sustainability of a school. He highlighted that as well as Ofsted, there was also a broad range of aspects that were taken into account in grading a school. He confirmed that examination results were one of the first indicators used in identifying schools as well as coasting and floor standards.

Greg Jones referred to the increasing level of standards that were being introduced in schools and the ways in which BEP were assisting schools through the district engagement leads in ensuring they were aware of these new levels and striving to meet them. He added that awareness had been made by BEP with regard to the drop in standards that were likely to happen as

a result of the increased levels which would not just apply to Birmingham but also nationally.

At this juncture, the Chair invited Greg Jones to report to district committee in six months' time which he agreed to do.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Greg Jones for attending the meeting and reporting.

Upon further consideration it was:-

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RESOLVED:-

That the presentation and comments be noted;

That Greg Jones, BEP update Yardley District Committee in 6 months' time.

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE - UPDATE

411

Adrian Whitehouse, Station Commander, West Midlands Fire Service reported that there had been a decrease of 15% in accidental dwelling fires within the district, although, arson vehicle fires had increased due to the rise of fires relating to motorbikes.

He referred to the other areas of work that the fire service had been involved with which included the road safety campaign highlighting that they now had the co-ownership of a portable speed camera which records vehicles' speeds that could be used as a temporary measure in 'hot spots' areas across the district.

Adrian Whitehouse referred to the recent launch of the road safety strategy which Councillor Stacey had taken part in which concentrated on the three themes relating to safer roads, safer people and safer vehicles. It was also highlighted the work that had taken place with Councillor Iqbal, relating to the local campaign at Ghamkol Sharif Mosque.

He confirmed that they would continue with the school strategy and would be visiting every primary school in the district in order to deliver their prevention packs to Year 4 students and specific groups.

He concluded by referring to the West Midlands Consultation Plan questionnaire which would be introduced on 1 December 2016 and run up until the 10 January 2017. He explained the importance of the public completing the questionnaire in order that it would help in shaping the new service delivery model.

Following comments from members, Adrian Whitehouse confirmed that they encouraged every school to visit 'Safe Side' and that they could use the facilities for a minimum charge. He referred to the speed camera which was battery operated and confirmed that it would usually be positioned in a specific area for a period of a month.

Councillor Dad highlighted the excellent work that was carried out by West Midlands Fire Service and highlighted the importance of members encouraging as many residents and community groups as possible, to participate in the consultation, as a means to help shape the service in moving forward.

The Chairman concluded by encouraging members to visit 'Safe Side' if they had not already done so as it was an excellent facility. He subsequently thanked Adrian Whitehouse for attending the meeting and providing an update.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE - UPDATE

412

Inspector Dave Keen, West Midlands Police, referred to the West Midlands Police 2020 briefing pack and subsequently agreed to circulate to all members after the meeting.

He referred to the areas of change that were shortly taking place especially relating to neighbourhood policing and highlighted the alterations that were taking place across the district which would be resulting in additional police support.

He referred to the work undertaken regarding the 'darker nights' campaign' highlighting that there had been an increase of 10% in residential burglary within the east of the city compared with this time last month, and that the police, were specifically focusing on crime prevention rather than just patrol awareness in this area of work. He highlighted the increased levels of work that needed to be tackled by the police relating to; speeding, anti-social behaviour and quad bikes.

Following comments from members, Inspector Dave Keen referred to the achievements the police had made relating to the off-road bikes nearby the industrial estate and the continuation of work in addressing this issue. He reported on the work relating to 'Operation Rathbone' team and the enormous amount of work that had been generated regarding the 'big event' whereby the policing team had been extended in order to address this particular issue.

He referred to the body worn cameras and confirmed that the neighbourhood policing would not be provided with these until the end of 2017. With regard to restorative justice he agreed to investigate and email members accordingly.

He confirmed that the designated custody block was now in Perry Barr and that the plan was for the neighbourhood police officers to remain in the locality, whilst the response function would take prisoners over to the custody block. He further reported that there was now a drive to deal with out of court disposals far more than court disposals as scientific indicators were alluding to better outcomes.

He referred to the parking issue raised relating to Bordesley Green East and whilst highlighting there was no easy solution agreed to advise officers to look for alternative parking areas.

Yardley District Committee – 24 November 2016

He referred to the recruitment drive relating to 101 calls and confirmed that with additional staff the service should improve in time.

Following a vote of thanks from Councillor O'Shea to the neighbourhood team in dealing with the travellers at Acocks Green and the work undertaken with regard to the off-road bikes, the Chair highlighted that the force had been very responsive to public opinion regarding local issues.

The Chair concluded by thanking Inspector Dave Keen for attending the meeting and providing an update.

DATE OF NEXT YARDLEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

- 413 The next Yardley District Committee Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 26 January 2017 at 13:30 hours in Committee Room 6, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

- 414 **RESOLVED:-**

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 at 14:50 hours.

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CHAIRMAN