

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**PERRY BARR DISTRICT
COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 14 JULY, 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: - Councillors Gurdial Singh Atwal, Barbara Dring, Tristan Chatfield, Jon Hunt, Keith Linnecor, Mahmood Hussain and Hendrina Quinnen

ALSO PRESENT

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

NOTICE OF RECORDING

1004 The Chairman advised that this meeting would 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.

**ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER AND VICE CHAIR FOR PERRY
BARR DISTRICT**

It was proposed and seconded that

1005 **RESOLVED:-**

That Councillor Mahmood Hussain is elected as Chairman of Perry Barr District Committee and Councillor Gurdial Singh Atwal as Vice Chair for the period ending with the first meeting of the District Committee in the next Municipal Year.

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

1006 The membership of the Committee was noted as follows:-

Councillors

Gurdial Singh Atwal (Chairman), Paulette Hamilton and Narinder Kooner
(**Handsworth Wood Ward**)

Mahmood Hussain, Hendrina Quinnen (Chairman) and Waseem Zaffar (**Lozells
and East Handsworth Ward**)

Tristan Chatfield (Chairman), Barbara Dring, and Keith Linnecor (**Oscott Ward**)

Ray Hassall, Jon Hunt and Karen Trench (Chairman) (**Perry Barr Ward**)

Khalid Mahmood, MP was also invited to attend all meetings in a non-voting capacity.

LEAD OFFICER ARRANGEMENTS

1006 The Lead Officer arrangements were noted as follows:-

Lead Officer – Neil De-Costa
Area Democratic Services Officer – Louisa Nisbett

APOLOGIES

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Paulette Hamilton, Narinder Kooner, Karen Trench, Waseem Zaffar and Ray Hassall (who attended but was unwell and left the meeting.)

It was agreed that in future the Chairman would sit at the top of the table.

MINUTES

1007 The Minutes of the last meeting on 17 March, 2016, having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1008 The Chairman reminded Members of the requirement to declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests and/prejudicial interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at the meeting.

Councillor Hendrina Quinnen declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Housing Transformation Board report, agenda item number 13.

COMMITTEE CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1009 The Code of Conduct related to District Committees was received and noted.
(See document no. 1)
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DISTRICT COMMITTEE FUNCTION AND GUIDELINES

- 1010 The Executive powers, Rules of Governance and terms of reference for District Committees (Article 10 of the Constitution) were received and noted:-
(See document no. 2)
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WARD MEETINGS AND NEW WAY OF WORKING

- 1011 The following document was submitted:-
(See document no. 3)

- Neil De-Costa, District Lead Officer reported that the document set out the new arrangements for Ward Meetings to take place on a bi monthly basis with a flexible approach.
- The meetings that had taken place so far had been well attended. Local people had taken the lead on issues. There was a community engagement aspect and better deal for neighbourhoods.
- The Wards in Perry Barr District were supported by the Governance Team which included 3 Governance Managers.
- The new Ward Tracker is important in tracking issues that emerge within wards. In the future there would be the opportunity to look at issues emerging from wards at a ward, district and citywide level and monitor regularly occurring issues and how they are being progressed. Neil De-Costa was happy to provide more information if required.
- Councillor Jon Hunt queried the role of Ward Advisory Boards in the new arrangements and their status. Neil De-Costa advised that although WABs had continued to operate 'informally' in Perry Barr Ward there was no provision for them in the new constitutional governance arrangements. He also reminded Councillor Hunt that the Leader of the Council had sent him a written response to a written question he had received from at a previous Full Council meeting. Neil De-Costa explained he could get further clarification if still required. Neil De-Costa went on to explain that there are now diminished resources in the District compared to previous years. Councillor Hunt noted that although a Scrutiny Review had praised the WAB arrangements a decision had been made not to support them.

In response to questions from Councillor Atwal Neil De-Costa explained up to 6 Ward Forum meetings could be held per annum. Ken Brown, Community Support & Development Officer is responsible for liaising with

Neighbourhood Forums regarding available funding for Neighbourhood Forum meetings.

- Councillor Linnecor queried the name given to ward meetings and questioned whether the funding allocated to Neighbourhood Forums could be used for WAB's where there was no Neighbourhood Forum. He continued that Oscott Ward would continue to hold Ward Committee meetings and not Ward Forums.
- Neil De-Costa confirmed that the name given to Ward meetings in the Constitution is Ward Forums. There would be no funding for Ward Advisory Boards.
- Councillor Dring stated that the WAB meetings in Oscott Ward were an extension of the Ward Committee. The Ward Councillors set the agenda. Local residents were able to request items for the agenda. The appropriate officers/representatives were invited to meetings.
- Neil De-Costa added that local Councillors were aware of local priorities. There was an emphasis on engagement with local people and local leadership. There was no formal recognition of WABs in the constitution.
- Councillor Linnecor said that Oscott Ward would be asking for a representative of the WAB to have a place on the Ward Committee.

PERRY BARR DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Councillor Hussain explained that Labour Group Members had had a conversation about District 'Champion' roles at a pre-meeting where the question of conflict of interest arose in the case of Cabinet Members or Assistant Leaders being appointed champions of priority theme groups. He requested that clarification be sought from Legal Services prior to confirmation of appointments in these instances.

- Corporate Parent Champion – (Currently Councillor Barbara Dring)
- Cultural Heritage Champion - (Currently Councillor Waseem Zaffar) – Councillor Atwal expressed an interest in this post.
- Cycle Revolution Champion - (Currently Councillor Linnecor) – Councillor Karen Trench expressed an interest in this post. Councillor Linnecor requested that he continue in this role as he had only just been recently appointed, however he welcomed any help from Councillor Karen Trench and asked that she get involved in this role.
- Regulation 44 Visits – Councillor Linnecor hoped that all the District Councillors would take part in the visits.

- Jobs and Skills Champion - (Currently Councillor Kooner) – Councillor Hendrina Quinnen requested that she be considered for this role.
- Health and Wellbeing Champion (Currently Councillor Paulette Hamilton).
- In response to Councillor Tristan Chatfield, Neil De-Costa undertook to check whether it was appropriate to appoint an Environmental Champion but didn't see an issue with this as it is the decision of the District Committee.

1012

RESOLVED:-

- i) That Councillor Dring be appointed as Corporate Parent Champion for the District.
- ii) That Councillor Linnecor be reappointed as Cycle Revolution Champion.
- iii) That Councillor Linnecor be reappointed as Regulation 44 visits representative.
- iv) That clarification be sought from Legal Services with regard to whether there was a conflict of interest with Cabinet Members or Assistant Leaders being Champions or Chairs for District priority theme groups.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- The meeting proposed for 16 March, 2017 was re-arranged to 23 March, 2017.
- The new Cabinet Committee Local Leadership Committee would make a decision on the location of District Committees.
- Councillor Linnecor repeated his request that the Chairman be seated at the head of the Committee room table so all councillors can be easily viewed.

1013

RESOLVED:-

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

Committee Room

29 September, 2016	1
24 November, 2016	2
19 January, 2017	2

23 March, 2017

2

HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD (HTB) PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 4 – 2015 -16

The following report of the Service Director, Housing Transformation Board Performance Report and Perry Barr District Landlord Services Performance Narrative Report Quarter 4 – 2015-16 was submitted:-

(See document no. 4)

The Chairman reminded Councillors that Kate Foley is only able to report on the services contained in the report that are within her responsibility. Should any questions arise for services that are not within her responsibility Kate Foley will request a response or appropriate officers can be invited to a future meeting.

Kate Foley presented the report drawing attention to the Performance Narrative Report, Quarter 4. During the presentation and discussion the following points were made:-

- **Anti-Social Behaviour** – Staff changes resulted in the recording procedures not being recorded correctly and this could not be changed. The figures had not been included.
- **Low and High Rise Blocks** – These are rated good or better. Once a tenancy ended the tenancy was being assessed.
- **Estate Assessments** – Good but not excellent.
- **Voids** – Good progress had been made particularly in Perry Barr Ward.
- **Repairs** – There was a new contractor for repairs. The target had not been built into the old contract.
- Councillor Hunt noted that sheltered housing had been removed from the void assessments. Kate Foley referred to page 65 of 102 the average void figure for sheltered properties and undertook to seek an update.
- Councillor Chatfield was concerned that 3 residents had reported to him that they had received appointment letters for their gas fires followed by warning letters to access the property. Kate Foley undertook to take any issues back to her colleagues who could respond directly to the Councillor.
- In reply to Councillor Dring, a high volume of Right to Buy applications had been received. This had impacted on timescales and targets.
- Some of the figures for Perry Barr District were better in a number of areas than in the City as a whole.

- Councillor Chatfield asked that 5/6 issues be selected and reported on. Neil De-Costa said that if there were specific issues the relevant officers could be asked to attend the meeting. Kate Foley welcomed any suggestions and was happy to discuss them with the Chairman and Lead Officer prior to the meetings.

1014

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

1015

WARD UPDATES

Handsworth Wood Ward – Councillor Atwal Chairman

- Councillor Atwal reported that Handsworth Wood Ward had not met so far. 3 meetings were planned and he would advise of the dates when they were finalised.

Lozells and East Handsworth Ward – Councillor Quinnen Chairman

- Councillor Quinnen reported that 4 meetings had been held during the last financial year. A meeting had been held on 5 July, 2016. Issues raised at meetings included: environmental issues, refuse collection, street cleaning, hotspots for problem collections. One of the main items had been hostels, houses in multiple occupation and private sector houses. It had been suggested that the area be used as a pilot area. The last meeting had focussed on jobs, skills and training. The main topics had been chosen by the public. Councillor Hussain added that residents had complained about lack of publicity for the meetings and this would be looked at.

Perry Barr Ward – Councillor Trench Chairman

- Councillor Hunt reported that the Committee had met on 30 June, 2016. Main topics for discussed were floods and fly-tipping. The meeting had been advertised to all households and were well attended. The Ward Advisory Board had also met. A new planning forum has also been created as there are a lot of local planning issues in the Ward.

Oscott Ward – Councillor Dring Chairman

- Councillor Dring reported that they had met regularly and the meetings had been well attended by 50/60 residents and various officers. Items had been requested by residents and placed on the agenda by Councillors. Amey had attended the meeting to discuss Trees. The Police had also attended meetings. Other issues discussed included grass verges and parking, Fleet and Waste Management, fly-tipping, missed collections, housing and street cleansing. Councillor Linnecor complimented Councillor Dring for the way she had chaired the meetings and said that trees and roads had been contentious issues in the Ward. Councillor

Linnecor was convinced that the Ward Advisory Board was the way forward.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1016 Items to be considered for future agendas were suggested as follows:-

Amey – Road Accidents, tree pruning **(September)**

Local Governance

Fleet and Waste – missed collections, drains, etc. flytipping – (Cabinet Member to be invited to the meeting). **(September)**

Education – Quality of teaching, school admissions **(September)**

CCG

Cabinet Committee

- Councillor Dring felt that Councillors needed to liaise directly with Amey, Highways and the Cabinet Member regarding the services provided.
- In reply to comments about agenda items on other District Committee Agendas and the lack of a Chairman's report and budget report Neil De-Costa replied that the future agenda item was the opportunity for Members to suggest items etc. Neil De-Costa explained that the delegations of the District Committee had changed during the last two years with the District being responsible for less services. Officer support had been reduced to two officers. He was happy to discuss items outside the meeting and to also seek clarification from Senior Managers regarding the format of future District Committee meetings.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)

1017 There was no other urgent business.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

1018 **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 at 1615 hours.

CHAIRMAN