

## BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

<b>HALL GREEN DISTRICT COMMITTEE 17 MARCH 2015</b>
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**MINUTES OF THE HALL GREEN DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY,  
17 MARCH 2015 AT 1000 HOURS IN COMMITTEE  
ROOMS 3 AND 4, COUNCIL HOUSE,  
VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT**:- Councillors Mohammed Azim, Barry Bowles, Sam Burden, Jerry Evans, Mohammed Fazal, Tony Kennedy, Victoria Quinn, Habib Rehman, Claire Spencer, Martin Straker Welds and Lisa Trickett.

**ALSO PRESENT**:- Salim Miah.- District Lead  
Rob Barker – District Contact Lawyer  
Parmjeet Jassal, Head of City Finance  
Jane Edwards – Birmingham Property Services  
Carl Hides – Senior Service Manager, Area Housing  
Mark Wright – Senior Service Manager-Partnership Team  
Superintendent Bas Javid – West Midlands Police  
Phil Wright – Committee Services

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**ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR LOCAL SERVICES FOR  
HALL GREEN DISTRICT**

It was-

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**RESOLVED**:-

That Councillor Victoria Quinn be elected the Executive Member for Local Services for Hall Green District and Chair meetings of the Committee, in place of Councillor Barry Bowles, for the current Municipal Year.

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

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The Chairman advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site ([www.birminghamnewsroom.com](http://www.birminghamnewsroom.com)) and that members of the press/public may record or take photographs. The whole of the meeting would be filmed except where there were confidential or exempt items.

**APOLOGIES**

- 134 An apology was submitted on behalf of Kerry Jenkins.
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**MINUTES**

**13 October 2014**

- 135 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the Hall Green District Committee meeting held on 13 October 2014 having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed, by the Chairperson.

**18 November 2014**

- 136 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the Hall Green District Committee meeting held on 18 November 2014 having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed, by the Chairperson.

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**DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

- 137 **RESOLVED:-**

That the following schedule of meetings for future District Committee meetings to be held at the Council House be agreed:-

Tuesday, 16 June 2015 – 1000 hours  
Tuesday, 14 July 2015 – 1000 hours  
Thursday, 22 September 2015 - 1000 hours  
Tuesday, 17 November 2015 -1000 hours  
Monday, 18 January 2016 - 1000 hours Subject to room availability  
Tuesday, 15 March 2016 - 1000 hours

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**CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

- 138 The Committees attention was drawn to the information contained on the agenda relating to links to the documents.

The Chair noted that consultation was important although it was noted that the documents were difficult to access via the link. It was suggested that other ways of consultation perhaps through blogs and social media may be more effective.

## **Hall Green District Committee – 17 March 2015**

During further debate it was acknowledged that, whilst Ward Committees were an important part of the democratic process, there were other and better ways of engagement. New ways of working at Ward level needed to be introduced and a number of Wards across the City were trying such initiatives.

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### **EMERGING PROPOSALS IMPACTING ON DISTRICTS**

The following Guidance Note for Executive Members/District Committees was submitted:-

(See document No. 1)

During the ensuing discussion Members made the following points:-

- a) Concern was expressed on how District Committees would be effective without a budget and it was questioned how their scrutiny role would be performed.
- b) It was noted that the City Council was still committed to devolution but had to consider the implications of the Kerslake recommendations.

Following comments from a member of the public relating to District Libraries, Members of the Committee reiterated their support for the retention of the District libraries and the way they provided an important facility, and range of services, for the Local Community. The importance of Libraries in the education of children was highlighted.

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### **RESOLVED:-**

That the Guidance Note for Executive Members/District Committees be noted.

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### **HALL GREEN REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2014/2015 MONTH 10 (APRIL 2014 – JANUARY 2015)**

The following report of the Service Directors (District Services, Housing Transformation and Sport Events and Parks) and the Director of Finance was submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

Parmjeet Jassal, Head of City Finance, made introductory comments relating to the report and responded to detailed questions from Members concerning Community Chest, the relationship with the centre and how the overspend had materialised.

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**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the latest revenue budget position at the end of January (Month 10) and the year-end projected overspend of £0.815m as detailed in Appendix 1 be noted;
  - (ii) that the latest Community Chest allocations and the current financial position as detailed in Appendix 2;
  - (iii) that the position with regard to the Saving Programme for 2014/15 as detailed in Appendix 3 be noted; and
  - (iv) that the position with regards to the capital projects for 2014/15 as detailed in Appendix 4.
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**HALL GREEN DISTRICT COMMITTEE SAVINGS PLAN – 2014/15 AND 2015/16: MOSELEY ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The following report of the District Lead was submitted:-

(See document No. 3)

Jane Edwards, Birmingham Property Services, made introductory comments relating to the report and highlighted the rationale for the recommendations.

During the ensuing discussion Members made the following points:-

- a) Concern was expressed at the legal position relating to the District Members now becoming Managing Trustees in respect of the management of the Moseley Road Community Centre particularly as previous arrangements had had the Trust and Charities Committee as responsible for the building.
- b) The buildings location on the A435 may provide an opportunity to attract funding and further use as the area would be regenerated.

During further discussion it was noted that it did not seem appropriate for all members of the District Committee to be trustees and they may or may not be suitably trained for the role. It was agreed that, whilst the recommendations in the report could be supported as they were in accordance with the wishes of the District Committee, the Chairman of the Trust and Charities Committee in Consultation with officers should advise on the setting up a board of Trustees to include some Members of the District Committee and others who may have an interest in heritage, regeneration etc including the ideal number of trustees required and their roles and responsibilities.

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**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the District Committee supports the authorising of the Director of

Legal and Democratic Services to negotiate, seal, execute and complete all legal documentation to give effect to future recommendations including seeking a Scheme to modernise the Trust constitution;

- (ii) that the District Committee support and endorse reviewing the options for future management of Moseley Road Community Centre (also known as The Friends Institute) that may include a Community Asset Transfer as asset out in the report and officers be authorised to develop proposal accordingly; and
- (iii) that the Chairman of the Trust and Charities Committee be requested to advise on the setting up a board of Trustees to include some Members of the District Committee and others who may have an interest in heritage, regeneration etc such advice to include the ideal number of trustees required and their roles and responsibilities.

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**PLACE DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 3**

The following report of the Service Director, Place Directorate was submitted:-

(See document No. 4)

It was noted that no officer was in attendance to present the report and therefore consideration of the report be deferred to a future meeting. It was further noted that targets within such reports remained the same for a number of years and that some of the data gathered did not appear to be beneficial as it did not relate to the neighbourhoods within the District. Members believed that future reports should contain factual and meaningful data.

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**RESOLVED:-**

That consideration of the report be deferred to a future meeting and the Service Director, Place Directorate be advised of the comments in the foregoing preamble.

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**HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 3**

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

(See document No. 5)

Carl Hides, Senior Service Manager, Area Housing, made introductory comments relating to the report and noted the comments relating to data in the previous item. He responded appropriately to questions from Members in particular noting that the Place Managers were Oliver Humpidge for Sparkbrook and Hall Green Wards, Levain Hanley for Springfield Ward and Amelia Murray

for Moseley and Kings Heath. Members commented on the fact that Oliver was covering two Wards and questioned whether that was in the best interests of residents in the Wards.

During the ensuing discussion Members made the following points:-

- a) It noted that that the data relating to voids was unacceptable particularly as there were a number of people who were homeless. It was suggested that some of the harder to let flats adjacent to each other could be let to large homeless families or even reconstructed.
- b) It was noted that some residents could not have the Careline alarm system as they could not afford the cost of a BT landline.
- c) The data for anti-social behaviour was questioned and it was noted that a separate meeting was to be held with Members to look behind the figures.
- d) There was an issue across all housing sectors relating to de-conversion projects which are delayed due to officers moving on and this impacted upon partnership working.

Responding to a particular comment regarding the state of gardens which were putting people off and resulting in properties remaining void, Mark Wright, Senior Service Manager-Partnership Team, indicated that there was a standard in place which should be adhered to. He undertook to look at individual cases raised by Members. It was noted that most tenants maintained their gardens with some winning awards.

Following an issue raised by Councillor Bowles relating to a person who had live in a property for over 30 years having no right to the tenancy as it was in her husband's name and records had been lost, Carl Hides, Senior Service Manager, Area Housing undertook to look in the details of the individual case.

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**RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

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**OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chairman was of the opinion that the following items could be considered as matters of urgency in view of the need to expedite consideration thereof:-

**A. Community Safety and Policing Issues**

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At the invitation of the Chair, Superintendent Bas Javid – West Midlands Police, indicated that he had met most Members when he had previously attended the Committee but reiterated that he was the Superintendent for the East Birmingham Local Policing Unit which covered the Districts of Hall Green, Yardley and Hodge Hill. He noted that West Midlands Police had a raft of priorities. He was aware of the effect of crime and Anti-Social behaviour had on

local communities. He would welcome the opportunity to attend meetings of the District Committee and answer concerns of Members.

During the ensuing discussion it was noted that the Constitution allowed for Partners such as West Midlands Police to be invited to meetings in a co-opted Member role and Superintendent Bas Javid could be extended such an invite. The impact of financial cuts on community policing were questioned. Reference was made to the work of the Community Safety team and the Local Delivery Group was referred to and the need for partnership working. Superintendent Bas Javid confirmed that like the City Council the Police were facing financial cuts. Therefore a redesign of the force was out to consultation so that it could be established what the force requirements would be in 2020. Whilst there would be changes in the way the force operated for an example a new custody centre and increases in cybercrime he could not say how the cuts would affect East Birmingham.

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**B. Petition - Road Re-Surfacing and Pavement, Peverell Drive, Hall Green**

Councillor Barry Bowles submitted the following petition from residents of Peverall Drive, Hall Green requesting the road and pavements be re-surfaced:-

(See document No. 6)

145      **RESOLVED:-**

That the petition be referred to the appropriate officer for consideration and response.

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**AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS TO ACT BETWEEN MEETINGS**

146      **RESOLVED:-**

That the Chairman is hereby authorised to act until the next meeting of the Committee except that, in respect of the exercise of the Council's non-Executive functions, the appropriate Chief Officers are hereby authorised to act in consultation with the Chairman and that the Director of Legal & Democratic Services is authorised to affix the Corporate Seal to any document necessary to give effect to a decision of the said officers acting in pursuance of the power hereby delegated to them; further that a report of all action taken under this authority be submitted to the next meeting and that such report shall explain why this authority was used.

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The meeting ended at 1159 hours.

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CHAIRMAN