

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ERDINGTON DISTRICT COMMITTEE TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2017

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ERDINGTON
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 28
MARCH 2017 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE
ROOMS 3 & 4, THE COUNCIL HOUSE,
BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT : - Councillor Mick Brown (Vice Chairman) in the Chair;

Councillors Robert Alden, Bob Beauchamp, Mick Brown, Des Hughes, Mick Finnegan, Penny Holbrook, Gareth Moore, Mike Sharpe and Ron Storer

ALSO PRESENT :-

Mike Davis – District Head (Erdington)
Steve Horsley – West Midlands Fire
Patrick Canavan – Housing Manager
Pam Powis – Community Safety Officer
Tracey Murray – Policy Officer
Sarah Stride – Committee Manager.

NOTICE OF RECORDING

383 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

384 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Josh Jones, Lynda Clinton and Gary Sambrook and Jason Bonser, West Midlands Police for their inability to attend the meeting.

MINUTES

Councillor Finnegan made reference to Minute No. 378 (page 220) and stated that in the preamble it was noted that burglaries had recently increased significantly in the Stockland Green Ward and he was pleased to report that two known criminals had since been arrested and that following this action burglaries had reduced by 50% within one month in the Stockland Green area.

It was -

385

RESOLVED:-

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 31 January 2017, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 3 2016/17 AND PERFORMANCE NARRATIVE

The following report of the Director of Place and the performance narrative was submitted:-

(See Document No's. 1 and 2)

Patrick Canavan, Housing Officer introduced the report and discussed at length the points contained in the narrative report.

Members welcomed the verbal update report and had no further questions.

It was -

386

RESOLVED:-

That the Housing Transformation Board Performance Report Quarter 3 2016/17 and the performance narrative be noted.

NORTH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES AND PLANS 2017 – 2018

Pam Powis, Community Safety Officer gave a verbal report and made the following particular points:

- Brief outline on the outcome of the pilot scheme combining both the North Community Safety Partnership with the Early Help Partnership within the Children's Services Department. Priorities between the two partnerships were 75% similar and it was felt that merging the two partnerships would be beneficial/shared priorities. A report on progress will be presented August/September 2017.
- In view of this, priorities have been reviewed. 4 themed priority half day events have taken place which started in November 2016 and finished in January 2017 on the following – a) Domestic abuse, b) Young People and Children, c) Vulnerable Adults and d) Building Communities and

Neighbourhoods. Approximately 35/40 professionals attended each of the half-day session events. On 28 February 2017 the pilot draft Terms of Reference and the Delivery Plan was agreed and actioned by all parties involved.

- Progress to be achieved in the coming year: –

a) Domestic Abuse

Working closely with the new commission service by the PCC and developing a local perpetrator programme which is hoped will be launched in May 2017. Continuing to support the delivery of the freedom and recovery programme and 6 volunteers who are survivors of domestic abuse and are working together with the pilot scheme to help and assist victims of domestic abuse.

Working on a project with West Midlands Police to reduce the amount of outstanding domestic abuse offenders connected to the North of the City and have assisted Police in tracking down 2 outstanding offenders with the use of information sharing.

Try and increase counselling services in the North. The organisation Good Heights have obtained a grant from the lottery service to provide counselling services and working with them to see if services can be expanded to cover other counselling areas.

Last year the Landlord Services employed 4 Domestic Abuse officers and the officer designated in the North is now fully active and supported in their role.

b) Young People and Children

Piloting a deferred prosecution programme in partnership with West Midlands Police and the Youth Offending Service in order to identify young people who have been arrested for the first time and rather than arresting them and putting them through the youth justice system the programme gives them the opportunity to turn things around and go in the right direction. The Youth Offending Service will provide a family assessment and will support and monitor the young person. Family engagement was important. The programme has proved to be a great success.

Planning summer activities and funding has been ring-fenced to provide activities.

Business crime – will be holding a business summit and inviting as many businesses as possible to participate.

c) Vulnerable Adults

Focus on people rather than just adults. Working with Public Health to review service provision and make important decisions on how to take the service forward. Partnership working and training around anti-social behaviour and mental health will be arranged. A number of partnership training events will take place throughout the year.

d) Building Communities and Neighbourhoods

Will be reviewing the Neighbourhood Tasking process and the Safer Communities Group and will make adjustments/improvements where required.

Continuing with the Keep Safe Project and possibly expanding the Group with the support of the Housing Department Street Scene Service and will be contacting communities and promoting Neighbourhood Agreements.

Road Safety – a new project has been developed to tackle parking around schools. Engaging with primary schools in the North of the City to offer additional enforcement officers if they sign up to the project.

In response to questions raised by Members Pam Powis gave the following responses:

Fly tipping and environmental clean-up will be undertaken and assisted by the community pay back scheme. Will work with partners and try and involve residents to take more responsibility and environmental ownership of their Neighbourhood.

On the issue of anti- social behaviour and deferred investigations she assured Members that all investigations were monitored extremely closely and the perpetrator is required to undertake a 30 week, 2 hour, intensive programme of work. Therefore to defer the investigation they would have to sign up and agree to participate and complete the course. Members welcomed the action being taken and stated that whilst it was important to help and support victims it was equally important to assist perpetrators.

Road Safety – Schools will be required to be proactive and work with the project in order for it to be a success. All schools approached in the North of the City welcomed the project. Discussing ways in which to advise parents of parking restrictions and a suggestion has been made to include a paragraph in the school offer letter to parents advising them of parking restrictions and no parking zones around that specific school. Investigations into alternative methods of getting to school rather than driving are under investigation and schools are working with childcare organisations looking at walking buses, breakfast clubs etc.

Community Safety Funding – Birmingham Community Safety Funding has agreed to give the North a budget for this year of £60,000 for project delivery work only. Small grant funding to community groups will not be continued. It was envisaged that the Active Citizens Fund will help and support community groups. There were no future plans at present to merge the Birmingham North and East Community Safety Funding Partnership Groups.

It was -

387

RESOLVED:-

That the verbal report on the North Community Safety Partnership Priorities and Plans 2017 – 2018 be noted.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE 2015/16 CLEAN AND GREEN REPORT

The following report of the District Head was submitted:-

(See Document No 3)

Mike Davis introduced the report at length and responded appropriately to comments from Members.

Members requested that the report be amended to specifically state that the use of local authority CCTV waste enforcement cameras be utilised rather than the Police deployable cameras to monitor environmental issues such as recycling banks and fly tipping. It was also noted that the commentary should state that the decision to close recycling banks was a City decision and not a decision taken by Ward Members.

The Chairman thanked Members for their comments and during the course of discussion it was decided that a further report giving clear implementation dates and outcomes on all recommendations listed in the report be submitted to the next meeting of the Erdington District Committee.

It was -

388

RESOLVED:-

That the Neighbourhood Challenge 2015/16 Clean and Green report be noted.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE 2016/17 MENTAL HEALTH UPDATE

The following report from the District Head was circulated at the meeting:

(See Document No 4)

Mike Davis, District Head introduced the report and went through the salient points.

It was suggested that officers liaise local Ward community groups across the District as many of them had completed a lot of work on mental health and supporting people in the community. It was suggested that referrals through GP surgeries could also be another way of taking the issue forward.

It was noted that the report should reflect assistance provided to people with mental health and their integration back into the work place.

A brief discussion ensued and Members agreed that the way forward was to form a small group involving District Members and the information gathered be scrutinized and that a report on the groups findings be submitted to a future meeting of the District Committee. The District Head stated that he would organise the event.

389

RESOLVED:-

That the verbal report on the Neighbourhood Challenge 2016/17 Mental Health update be noted.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE UPDATE

390

RESOLVED:-

The Committee were informed that the representative from West Midlands Police was not in attendance at the meeting and had submitted his apologies.

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE UPDATE

391

RESOLVED:-

The Committee were informed that the representative from West Midlands Fire Service was not in attendance at the meeting.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

392

No items of other urgent business were raised.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE ERDINGTON DISTRICT COMMITTEE

It was -

393

RESOLVED: -

Members agreed that the provisional date for the next meeting of the Erdington District Committee be held on Tuesday 27 June 2017 at 1400 hours in Committee Rooms 3 & 4 at the Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

394

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 1530 hours.

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CHAIRMAN