

Ladywood District Committee –
21 March, 2017
BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**LADYWOOD DISTRICT
COMMITTEE – 21 MARCH, 2017**

**MINUTES OF THE LADYWOOD DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY,
21 MARCH, 2017 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 3 & 4, COUNCIL
HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillor Ziaul Islam in the Chair;

Councillors Muhammed Afzal, Kath Hartley, Nagina Kauser, Chaman Lal, Yvonne Mosquito, Sybil Spence.

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Inspector Stu Bill, West Midlands Police
Councillor Marje Bridle, Assistant Leader
Nicci Collins, West and Central Place Manager
Peter Howarth, BCR Project Manager
Tony Kennedy, Assistant Leader
Andy Middleton, BCR Programme Manager
Louisa Nisbett, Area Democratic Services Officer
Lesley Poulton, Head of Ladywood District

NOTICE OF RECORDINGS

342 The Chairman advised that the 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 were confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES

343 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Albert Bore, Carl Rice, Chaudhry Rashid and Sharon Thompson for their inability to attend the meeting. An apology was also received on behalf of David Newman, West Midlands Fire Service.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING - LADYWOOD

344 **RESOLVED:-**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January, 2017 having been previously circulated, be agreed and signed as a correct record.

WEST AND CENTRAL LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

345 The following Delivery Plan was received and noted:-

(See document no. 1)

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Nicci Collins and Chief Inspector Stu Bill attended for this item. The Committee was informed that Superintendent Mat Shaer had been appointed as Chair of the partnership but was unable to attend the meeting. During the presentation and discussion the following points were made:-

- Nicci Collins had been invited back to report on progress with the Delivery Plan. The final draft of the plan was due to be endorsed at a meeting on Thursday.
- Nicci Collins gave a summary of the Plan. The agreed priorities had been reviewed and agreed at a meeting in January and were listed on page 6 of the Plan:-

Supporting the Vulnerable

Mental Health
Homelessness
Domestic Violence
Youth Diversion and Employment
On-line Vulnerability

Supporting the Community

Third Sector Engagement
Transient Communities
Road Safety
Environment

- They would look at the Sector to help them to deliver the plan. Partners meet throughout the year and deal with issues as they arise.
- It was noted that the document circulated with the agenda was incorrect and a correct copy would be circulated following the meeting.
- There had been some new powers introduced relating to Anti Social Behaviour during the last few years. They had undergone training on Public Space Protection Orders and worked with Licensing and the Private Rented Sector.
- Councillor Kath Hartley was on the partnership. They would continue to take appropriate multi-agency action. There had been an away day with partners in support of VOWS. Those who attended had found it useful and wanted to do it more regularly. The St George Estate Project was about Estate Management and policing.
- Some training had been arranged for partners around safeguarding, mental health, first aid, gang mentoring etc also use of social media, strengthening skills and capacity.
- Chief Inspector Stu Bill introduced himself. There had been a restructure from 28 November, 2016 and a change in Inspector for the District. A list had been circulated to Members with details of the police contacts. The restructure was part of the 20/20 programme. Chief Inspector Stu Bill together with Superintendent Mat Shaer remained responsible for the area and were a local point of contact.
- Councillor Spence thanked Nicci Collins and Chief Inspector Stu Bill for the update. She stressed that each time they became accustomed to the police representative and began to work with them and the public built up trust and confidence with them they were changed. Councillor Spence spoke of the need for continuity, especially in a inner city area so that people could be confident in the police Chief Inspector Stu Bill said confidence and trust in the police was an

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issue. As part of the restructure they had kept Ward Level Working as best as they could.

- Councillor Mosquito referred to the reorganisations and changes that BCC had made in the last 20 years. With reference to the regular change of police contacts, the most important issue was the consistency of information to the community, and this had been a problem for a long time. There were organisations in Birmingham that would want to work with the police however the police needed to reach out to them. Councillor Spence suggested that some funds be allocated to appointing a student to carry out some mapping to enable the sharing of resources and information.
- Councillor Afzal stated that he was not against the promotion of police staff however they had been changed in his Ward for the last 4/5 years. He added that they were unhappy about the lack of continuity in Aston ward.
- Chief Inspector Stu Bill noted the points made in particular the points about inconsistency at ground level. In Aston the Sergeant had decided to leave the force.
- Councillor Lal noted that a police presence was no longer seen. He asked for details of the number of staff that were left and why no PCSOs or police were seen on the street. Councillor Lal thanked Nicci Collins for the draft plan and in reply to his comment Nicci Collins informed that there was a Place Manager for each quadrant. They had not been asked to deliver at Ward level and it was not possible to have one Community Safety Partnership each.
- Chief Inspector Stu Bill advised that the numbers of police for Birmingham were the same or had increased. There was no difference in the numbers of officers or PCSO's. Other forces had started to recruit again.
- They had carried out third and voluntary sector work by adapting the small grants funding, working with 15 organisations. They had made progress with commissioning. Birmingham Voluntary Sector Council had been invited to sit on the CSP in the last year. 6,000 had attended VOWs in November. They had access to a voluntary service database.
- In reply to a question from Councillor Islam, the CSP had limited resources but they did preventative work to tackle youths and ASB they had commissioned some outreach work for a ASB hotspot in conjunction with the police. Organisations had engaged with youths successfully. Evaluations were completed and repeated after 3 months. Some youths had been engaged with at Villa Road the previous year and most were still engaged. The cost was £1,500 and they hoped to repeat the scheme across the Ward. It was acknowledged that the childhood experience had an impact on adult life.
- The Chairman thanked the representatives for their report.

CABINET COMMITTEE LOCAL LEADERSHIP

346 The following Briefing note for Cabinet Committee Local Leadership, 7 March, 2017 Entitled "The Evolution of Devolution Within Birmingham" was submitted:-

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(See document no, 2)

Councillor Marje Bridle, Assistant Leader, accompanied by Tony Kennedy attended the meeting to give an update. Councillor Marje Bridle gave a summary of the document using the main following headings:-

Working Together
What you Said
The Direction of Change
Improved Ward and Neighbourhood Working
Locally Influenced Services
Additional Areas Assistant Leaders are Exploring
Transition Teams
Tackling Jobs and Skills Locally
Improved Ward and Neighbourhood Working

In addition during the presentation and discussion the following points were made:-

- With regard to Ward Teams named officers were need to get issues in the Neighbourhood and Ward resolved.
- Councillor Afzal spoke about the need for a culture change and gave an example of a disabled person having to wait for 10 months for a parking Bay. He was concerned that unless there were time scales to achieve targets matters would drag on.
- Councillor Spence liked the ethos of the report. She referred to budget cuts and lack of people to deliver the service leading to complaints from residents. Councillor Spence felt that it was important that the promises could be achieved.
- Councillor Lal said that promises had been made but no deadlines given. He added there would be conflicts in how to please everyone as officers could not do some things owing to lack of resources. He felt that some of the things would work locally.
- Councillor Tahir Ali was interested in the Assistant Leader's visit to Oldham and lessons learned. He said that the population of Oldham was 1,000,000 and there were 55 Councillors. If compared with Birmingham there would need to be 55 Councillors just for Perry Barr. He said that the areas visited could not be compared to Birmingham and did not have the same budget. Councillor Tahir Ali continued that there were plans to reduce the workforce from 18,000 to 7,000. The workforce had been cut to more than half in a decade however officers were expected to do too much.
- Councillor Kennedy did not think that the plan was over optimistic. The plans were not a manifesto but work in progress. They had no illusions that there would be more resources. They wanted all organisations to work with them to develop Neighbourhood working. There should be more prevention and deterrent work. He mentioned that the City had been built on manufacturing and the shared values of the past were now gone. Councillor Kennedy made reference to the Kerslake report and joint working with communities to make things better.

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- Councillor Marje Bridle referred to Councillor Afzal's comment about the need for a culture change and agreed that there should be a timescale. She felt that maybe there could be an officer to unblock the problems. She agreed with Councillor Spence and agreed that practical actions were needed. A meeting with AMEY would be beneficial. Performance measures were needed for people. Perhaps the Assistant Leader could meet up with the Neighbourhood Co-ordinators.
 - Councillor Mosquito congratulated the Assistant Leaders for the document. She felt the plans captured how to empower and enable organisations and show the local community what could be achieved. The way in which the resources were used was important. There was an issue of officer capacity all round. The partnership should also include private organisations. Councillor Mosquito made reference to local organisations in Nechells donating food to a food bank and commented on the numerous opportunities through the internet. In conclusion she said that the Assistant Leaders were doing an excellent job with limited resources.
 - Councillor Hartley clarified that Oldham had 31,000 residents and not 100,000, 3 Parliamentary Consistencies, 60 Councillors and 20 Wards (6 or 7 Wards per Constituency). Councillor Marje Bridle said that Oldham was a much smaller council but had received massive cuts
 - Councillor Islam agreed that staff had done a fantastic job with limited resources. He said that dumping of litter in particular in alleyways was an issue. They had held a Committee meeting in Aston to find a local solution to street cleansing.
 - Councillor Kennedy said there would be an Alleyways report to Cabinet in April. A sustainable solution needed to be found. They wanted to help the Neighbourhood to work better together.
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BIRMINGHAM CYCLE REVOLUTION

347 Andy Middleton BCR Programme Manager and Peter Howarth were in attendance and circulated copies of the Birmingham Cycle Revolution Programme and the proposed cycle routes for the A34 Birchfield Road and A38 Bristol Road:-

Further information was available using the following links:-

These links are publically available as part of the ongoing/ current consultation process:

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/economy/bcr-a34/>

FYI regarding Ladywood District (A38 corridor)

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/economy/bcr-a38/>

During the presentation and discussion the following points were made:-

- An overview of the Birmingham Cycle Revolution (BCR) Programme was given. A total of £57M had been secured from the Department for Transport

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and the Local Enterprise Partnership to deliver the Programme over a 6-7 year period from 2014 to 2020.

- There were 4 main elements to the programme. Progress so far included an outreach package to refurbish cycle routes including canal routes, access improvements, refurbish lighting etc. There was also a local bike initiative programme.
- They had delivered 40km of new or refurbished cycle paths to date another 10 km was due to be done. The first phase of the programme had been completed.
- The Big Birmingham Bikes Initiative delivered 4,000 bikes to people in deprived areas in Birmingham to help them to access employment and other facilities. In the second phase of the Big Birmingham Bikes programme they would allocate grants to businesses and schools. They had already distributed £150K of grants.
- From the schemes delivered last year they found that the canal works and green routes had been effective. The feedback had been positive.
- The Highway Works package had delivered a number of schemes. Feedback had been taken into consideration about what had worked well or needed to be reviewed. Feedback was that they needed to focus on quality schemes and provide a segregated infrastructure from the normal traffic for cycles. They planned to change the programme.
- Two main corridor schemes, one along A34 to Perry Barr to the City Centre and one from the City Centre to Bristol Road were proposed. The routes would join up in the City Centre and be delivered by 2018.
- A summary of the work planned for the 2 main corridor schemes was given. They looked to deliver a fully segregated cycle track, separate from the traffic and public. Some of the public felt that it was not safe to travel on the road. The consultation period was 27 February to 7 April 2017. 11,000 leaflets had been delivered. There were also some temporary road signs and public consultation events.
- Councillor Mosquito queried whether the cycle tracks were wide enough for tricycles. She felt this should be considered during the consultation. Councillor Mosquito continued that some people would feel uncomfortable on a narrow track. She congratulated the officers on the excellent project that had been well executed and one of the best she had seen.
- Councillor Afzal referred to the segregation of the cycle route from the main route questioning why there were so many cycling signs on the road. Councillor Spence added that in Inner City areas people were asking what the signs were for. Having taken up cycling again Councillor Spence would like to ride to the Council House but did not feel safe.
- The Committee was informed that the programme was a 7 year programme at the time of the bid in 2012, road space was identified for a cycle route. During the last few years best practice had changed. Many Local Authorities

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are now looking for segregated areas to put in cycle routes. There were currently some signs up for the cycle route. There was more to be done on the schemes and they would look to put in some direction signage.

- There were a lot of cycle signs in Inner City Areas owing to them being close to the City Centre. All of the cycle routes in the City would be treated the same. The target audience the segregated route was aimed at was people who wanted to cycle but felt unsafe. The track would be 3 metres wide were possible.
- Councillor Lal said that the programme was a good investment in the City but questioned whether it was sustainable for the future. The dedicated routes were needed however they should be wide enough. He queried whether tow paths were being used for cycle routes as the safety of vulnerable people was important.
- Councillor Kauser asked where the consultation events were being held. She asked about the road layouts for the cycle routes on Heathfield and Trinity Road as the roads were already too narrow and there were problems with parking.
- With regard to security, consideration needed to be given to safety in certain areas. Improved lighting could reduce crime. Part of the canal programme was to refurbish the lighting and improve lighting in the tunnels. Across the whole programme some of the routes were severely in need of repair. The new routes would be maintenance free. Once the routes were put in canals they would be cost neutral and the responsibility of the Canals and
- There were 4 consultation events for the A38 and 3 events for the A34. They had distributed leaflets. Details were also online on Beheard. It was not proposed that the route would go any further than Heathfield Road.
- In response to Councillor Hartley's comment about the information being changed, the Committee was informed that the brochure was made the previous year and changes had been made as the scheme developed. Consultation was still open for the A38 scheme. Issues raised at the consultation had been taken into account.
- Just over 60% of the £500,000 cycle location grant had been allocated. A second application process will take place over the summer.

HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 3 2016-2017

The following report was submitted:-

(See document no. 3)

348

RESOLVED:-

That the report be deferred to the next meeting.

REGULATION 33 VISITS TO ADULT ESTABLISHMENTS

349 The following list of Establishments in Ladywood District to receive Members Regulation 33 Visits was submitted:-

(See document no. 4)

The item was deferred to the next meeting.

WARD UPDATES

350 The item was deferred to the next meeting.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

351 Consideration of the proposed dates listed below was deferred to the next meeting.

Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB at 1400 hours on the following dates:-

25 July, 2017
19 September, 2017
21 November, 2017
23 January, 2018
20 March, 2018

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

352 The item was deferred.

AUTHORITY TO ACT BETWEEN MEETINGS

353 **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 1600 hours.

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Chairman