

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HODGE HILL DISTRICT COMMITTEE 16 MARCH 2017

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HODGE
HILL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD
ON THURSDAY 16 MARCH 2017 AT
1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE,
VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillors Uzma Ahmed, Mohammed Aikhlaq, Marje Bridle, John Cotton, Diane Donaldson, Mohammed Idrees, Mariam Khan, Majid Mahmood and Shafique Shah

ALSO PRESENT:-

PS Ali	- West Midlands Police
Jasi Bridgman	- Birmingham Adult Education Services
David Bromley	- Station Commander, Ward End Fire Station
Mike Davis	- Hodge Hill/Erdington District Head
Rachel Fulwell	- Think Family Manager
Jane Newman	- Employment & Skills Manager, Economy
Arthur Tsang	- Acting Senior Housing Manager
Errol Wilson	- Legal and Democratic Services

NOTICE OF RECORDING

381 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

382 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ansar Ali Khan, Ian Ward and Fiona Williams for their inability to attend the meeting.

MINUTES

- 383 That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2016, having been circulated to Members were confirmed as a true and correct record.
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MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

CCTV CAMERAS – DELAY

- 384 Councillor Bridle commented that in relation to the cameras, a meeting was held with Arthur Tsang and that it was hoped that the cameras would be up and running by the end of the month. Arthur Tsang advised that three areas were identified in Shard End, Washwood Heath, and Balsall Green and they were currently arranging for the software to be downloaded onto some additional computers and it was hoped that they would have the cameras by the 31 March 2017.

Councillor Mahmood commented that they had received an email with the location of the meeting, but that the location was changed and this was not filtered through to him. He added that he had spoken with the Place Manager last week and advised that a camera needed to be installed at the junction of St Margaret's Road/Washwood Heath Road.

Mr Tsang advised that when the original invitation was sent out, a number of declines were received one of which was from Councillor Mahmood. He stated that when an invitation is declined, if this was later updated, it did not send any information.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 385 Councillor Aikhlaq declared a non-pecuniary interest as a representative from Lea Trust and Councillor Idrees declared a non-pecuniary interest as a representative from West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority. Councillor Majid Mahmood declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Governor of Hodge Hill College, Bromford Road, Hodge Hill, Birmingham.
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PETITIONS

- 386 There were no petitions submitted.
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BIRMINGHAM ADULT EDUCATION- UPDATE ON THE DISTRICT SERVICE OFFER

- 387 Jasi Bridgman, Birmingham Adult Education gave a verbal update on the item.

(See document No. 1)

In response to questions, Ms Bridgman made the following statements: –

They had named the name of the Heart Centre to Shard End Learning Centre as it was quite confusing to local residents as to what the aim of the centre was. They used to have a lot more networking which has ceased slightly. She stated that Members could make them aware of any groups that would be of value to the Centre and the local residents – that could work collectively and engage more learning; or offer a surgery at the Centre. Members could liaise with her or the principal Joanne Keatley who would be happy to meet with Members.

In terms of the £20m pledged by the Government for ESOL classes, they had tapped into that funding and had offered lower level pre-entry ESOL as there was a huge demand. They had embedded other things to support those learners to engage in speaking, reading and writing skills. Saltley and Shard End Centres had a good proportion of these provisions already planned.

There were statistics in relation to the Bangladeshi community in Hodge Hill District as residents. They had in 2015/16 95 learners and in 2016/17 61 learners. In Hodge Hill District key venues, they had 61 Bangladeshi learners in 2015/16 and 45 in 2016/17. There was still work to be done.

In terms of fees, this could be complicated as with each learner, when they come to enrol and to seek information and guidance, they had information concerning their circumstances. They were required to bring proof of their circumstances and were then able to advise them on the best way forward.

They had funds that they could support learners, but there was a fee. They tried not to charge a fee, but they had to look at each individual circumstance.

The Chairman thanked Jasi Bridgman for attending the meeting and presenting.

THINK FAMILY TEAM – UPDATE ON WORK WITHIN HODGE HILL DISTRICT

388 Rachel Fulwell, Think Family Manager gave the following PowerPoint presentation on the item.

(See document No. 2)

In response to questions, she made the following statements: -

Teams were based within Neighbourhood Offices and team meetings were held on a regular basis. Two officers were located at Lea Hall for the east of the city and others were based at other locations across the city.

The statistics were based purely on where the referrals were coming from and they had active people in the east who were bringing and reporting cases straightaway. The information provided was for across the city as there were other providers and it was not solely from Housing and the Police.

They were looking at producing a strategic assessment to look in more details at the figures that were provided. The citywide statistics was broken down into Wards. In

terms of the trends regarding financial issues there had been a lot of learning from phase 1 into phase 2 and they were looking to see if there was information in relation to trends. This was the reason that more in-depth analysis of the information would be undertaken.

They were working closely with the Department for Work and Pension (DWP) to work on this and more work would be done in the future. Ms Fulwell undertook to circulate a breakdown of the statistics by Ward to Members.

The Chairman thanked Rachel Fulwell for attending the meeting and presenting.

**HODGE HILL DISTRICT JOBS AND SKILLS PLAN AND YOUTH
UNEMPLOYMENT NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE – UPDATE**

Mike Davis, District Head, Jane Newman, BCC Employment Team and a representative from the Department for Work and Pension (DWP) presented the item. They drew the attention of the committee to the information in the report and gave a brief overview of the item

(See document No. 3)

In response to members' comments and questions, the officers made the following response: -

- I. In relation to working with schools concerning youth neighbourhood challenge, they had tried to engage with other schools in the District, but only two had taken up the offer so far. (PS Ali West Midlands Police stated that he had a school link officer that works on the District and undertook to get the link officer to contact the officers as they had a good working relationship with all the schools in the District).
- II. The lead officer for the DWP was Antonina Robinson and her telephone number and email address was included in the report. If members were in a position to *warm* the secondary schools up to the idea, of having a DWP work coach or outreach worker doing some work with the young people in the schools they could contact Mr Davis so that something could be organised.
- III. In terms of Lord Kerslake's review it was not that they had forgotten, but it was a recognition that they were dealing with a complex subject. Throwing money into ad hoc subjects would not tackle the problem as it needed a systemic approach which was what they were trying to do.
- IV. With regard to a report before Easter they were talking about a baseline study. It was uncertain what the circulation of this would be, but if possible this would be circulated and would be used for the strategic planning side. They did not want to stop work waiting for that as there was a lot of good works being done in the area.

- V. In terms of talking with the consultants, they were beginning to understand that this was a complex area in terms of skills. There were external factors that could influence how this work.
- VI. Regarding the schools update this information would be picked up with colleagues for members.
- VII. With regards to the HS2 College, they were getting close to finishing and there was a time log camera that members could log into and watch it being built. It was uncertain how the students were invited to visit the college, but this was something that would be picked up. This issue would be addressed with colleague who was working closely with the college infrastructure and to find a way in which they could expand this to increase the number attending.
- VIII. With regard to the community outreach work, they were looking to increase that as they had some additional funding from the recent budget for more work coaches across Birmingham. They were looking to do this on a more bespoke level, to work with a smaller group of people and find out what the issues were and then leading this into provision. They were looking to provide a more bespoke provision rather than have big provisions that they could put people into.
- IX. In terms of the Youth Promise there was a basic model which all the projects would go through in terms of intervention and employment engagements. When they get the Pioneer Group to speak with the Committee they would bring that model to the table. The model was well rehearsed as it was based on previous projects.
- X. Concerning the *Apprenticeship Levy*, it was uncertain how this would be done at present. If they wanted to look at apprenticeship delivery currently, they had to work through the data that the LEP had which was an unsophisticated data queue which at some stage gives data at a Ward level for some information, some at District level etc. They were trying to look at apprentices who were working in east Birmingham, but they could not get the data.
- XI. Moving forward, the unspent levy would be a key target for the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). Ms Newman undertook to speak with her colleagues from the WMCA to see if they would be able to track this as it was a key target. Some employers would use it as best they could, while others had opted out.
- XII. They had a list from Jan Collymore, Youth Service in September, which could be distributed again. The point about sharing widely with partners in the District was a valid one.
- XIII. With regard to the leaflet, they were working on adopting the leaflets that had not been used in Erdington put together by the Jobcentre Team with the City Council input.
- XIV. They were adopting and updating that so that it could be used in Hodge Hill with the Jobcentre so that when the work coaches goes out they could engage with

residents and when they engage with businesses there would be an offer there i.e. a combined offer from the Council and partners etc. It would incorporate the details of the Youth Promise offer, details of pioneer etc. Members would be sent what they had for now.

- XV. Regarding the Neighbourhood Challenge, a number of the recommendations were referred. There were also the Jobs and Skills Plan for Hodge Hill District that was updated and it was proposed to merge the two together into a single document. This makes sense as they move forward to try to integrate what they had in the Neighbourhood Challenge in terms of any outstanding or on-going actions to incorporate these into a Jobs and Skills Plan to take them forward. Members' views would be sought on this at some point.
- XVI. Mr Davis noted Councillor Mahmood's comments concerning recommendations 3 and 6 and advised that this was around the Jobcentre and what they could do to encourage more people to come to the Jobcentre and find it a useful experience and what was the barrier to people coming and using Jobcentres – this was Abdul's Programme, Outreach Worker from Washwood Heath. Will take this back through the DWP representative to ascertain whether there was any new surgeries in Bromford as was being suggested.
- XVII. With regards to recommendation 6, this was a list of organisations they were currently working with through their work to date in the partnership. It was not intended to be an exhaustive list of everyone in the District.
- XVIII. They were at the stage in terms of the procurement process where the main partners could only be the partners and were restricted in bringing in other partners unless they went through the procurement process. A brief discussion then ensued concerning COG.

The Chairman thanked Mike Davis, Jane Newman and the representative from DWP for attending and presenting.

389

RESOLVED: -

The Hodge Hill District Committee:

- I. Noted the progress with Hodge Hill District Jobs and Skills Plan in Appendix 1;
 - II. Noted the progress with the Neighbourhood Challenge recommendations in Appendix 2;
 - III. Endorsed the proposal to incorporate the ongoing neighbourhood challenge recommendations into a single integrated Hodge Hill District Jobs and Skills Plan for 2017/18; and
 - IV. To ascertain whether there was any potential for the outreach worker to do some work for Bromford.
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HOUSING TRANSFORMATION PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 3 – 2017/18

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

(See document No. 4)

Arthur Tsang, Acting Senior Housing Manager, made introductory comments relating to the report and invited questions from members. Councillor Mahmood expressed congratulations to the Hodge Hill Team concerning the average days to let a void property as they were the best in the city at 9.8 days

In response to members' questions and comments, Arthur Tsang made the following statements: -

- ❖ Mr Tsang undertook to take the comment back to the Void Team concerning the void lettings. He stated that the void lettings would have improved more, but for the issues concerning the designated blocks which makes it harder for them as the demand was not there. The average days from fit for let to the tenancy starting were 9.91 days.
- ❖ In terms of Anti-social Behaviour (ASB), in Quarter 3, 99.1% of their cases were closed which was above the City's target. They had closed 110 cases and had received 102 new cases, two of which was reported on the grounds of hate crime. They were currently operating 108 live cases and they continue to achieve 100% response of these ASB cases within time.
- ❖ They now had a Quality and Performance Officer – Claire Cooke who had recently been appointed. She was now carrying out a peer assessment on the other quadrant and they would be having one in the east also. Ms Cooke was setting up a number of workshops with ASB staff to ensure they were fully briefed on changes and best practice.
- ❖ They also had some mental health and ASB training sessions that had been set up which all the ASB staff would be attending to give them the skills and tools to manage ASB and mental health cases which were prevalent. There was also some ASB legislation training update which all staff would be attending.
- ❖ The Public Space Protection Order in Shard End had been updated and extended for a further 3 years and they were waiting for the signage to be put in place. Once the signage was in place this would be enforceable and they would be working with the Police to ensure that this was a success.

The Chairman thanked Arthur Tsang for attending the meeting and presenting.

It was:-

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

SALTLEY ADVICE CENTRE

391

Mike Davis, Hodge Hill District Lead gave the following verbal update: -

- Members would be aware that there was a neighbourhood office at Highfield Road, Saltley, but a new Future Operating Model (FOM) for neighbourhood office service was brought to Cabinet in March 2016. It took proposal how to take about £1m savings out of a £3m budget.
- This had resulted in a gradual reduction in the number of neighbourhood office services and staff over recent years.
- There was now a single homeless centre based in Newtown for anyone presenting as homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- In terms of consolidating neighbourhood office services, they principally deliver service on an open-door service 5 days per week full-time from Erdington and Northfield.
- They had co-located some staff alongside the Homeless Team in Newtown where some advice was provided around welfare issues and debt advice. They had co-located with Housing staff in Sparkbrook and Northfield delivering services in the form of a letting suite as part of the model.
- In the model, in order to stretch the resource, they were teamed up in a partnership framework with Third Sector providers. There was a Third Sector contract that was let and was awarded to Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) and partners to deliver a service out of Saltley as well as their offices in the City Centre.
- They were close to the Saltley office being operated by the CAB. To pave the way for this, they had reduced their staffing levels there and were operating 5 mornings per week. They were closed to the public in the afternoons, but were doing call-backs and pre-arranged appointments.
- The CAB had enquired about the potential for a temporary closure, but at the moment the City Council had tentatively agreed to a week's closure and this was about signalling a new direction for the service.
- It was likely that in the very near future they would have a temporary closure at Highfield Road, Saltley, before the CAB begin to deliver the service from there. Three advisors would be co-located there to support them and to deliver some complimentary advice services.
- Mr Davis noted Councillor Mahmood's comments concerning the temporary closure and advised that there were notices on the windows, website messages which had pre-warned current service users that changes were imminent. They were currently doing a lot to ensure customers were aware that changes were due.
- As they were finalising the details with the CAB, they could not be precise when the closure would happen. The length of the closure the City Council

suggested should be no more than one week. He undertook to inform the members of the date of the closure

DISTRICT MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGE 2016/17 - UPDATE

- 392 Due to time constraint the Committee agreed for Mr Davis to circulate the information to members by email.
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ASSISTANT LEADERS – UPDATE

- 393 Councillor Marje Bridle introduced the item and stated that they were moving forward with plans for better working with the neighbourhoods and wards. A presentation was made to Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership recently which some Councillors from the District would have seen. There were a number of elements to moving forward and they were hoping to develop a prospectus for action and there were a number of things that they were following up and they would *put some flesh on the bones* for their proposals. A meeting was scheduled for next week which would involve District Chairs as there needed to be discussions with Districts. They were hoping to work with the District Teams as transition teams towards this new way of working. The meeting next week would be with a Cabinet Member who was leading on the vision for Birmingham City Council and it was hoped that this would be a productive session.
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WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE - UPDATE

- 394 Dave Bromley, Station Commander for Ward End Fire Station gave a verbal update on *response, prevention and protection*.

(See document No. 5)

Councillor Mahmood welcomed Station Commander Bromley to Ward End Fire Station and stated that he was pleased that the Open Day would be taking place on the 29th July 2017. He undertook to cascade the information to all the schools in the Hodge Hill Ward and stated that it was hoped his colleagues would do the same in their Wards. He enquired whether letter box protectors and smoke alarms were still available, if this was so, he would like to invite Station Commander Bromley to a future Ward Forum meeting where this could be discussed with residents.

Station Commander Bromley stated that the Open Day on the 29th July 2017 was a great way to engage the community. Station Commander Bromley noted Councillor Mahmood's concerns regarding the Ward End Hub that had been sent on fire on a number of occasions and advised that he was aware of the premises and that he was waiting to speak with his Business Fire Safety officer on the patch, but that it was believed that the property was now owned by the proceeds of crime and could either be owned by the Police or the Council. They were trying to resolve that issue before it could be decided whether it needed to be demolished. It was a health and safety issue with the syringes that were in there.

Councillor Mahmood advised that Ward End Legga would be holding a Mela at Ward End Park on the 13 August 2017 and that they had requested that the Ward End Fire Service be invited to attend the event.

Station Commander Bromley stated that he was responsible for technical fire safety previously and was in charge of planning permission, building regulations; outside major events and that a good contact was one of his previous officers, Mick Robinson. He added that he was also in charge of petroleum explosives and legal enforcement and that he was hoping to bring that side of his experience to use and that members could contact him at any time. They could look to doing something in the park in the future as a community day. Any support that was needed for any processions, marches etc. he would be happy to help.

Councillor Idrees enquired about carbon monoxide detectors and the group(s) that would benefit to these detectors. Station Commander Bromley undertook to look into the issue relating to the carbon monoxide detectors, but he was aware that they were fitting the normal smoke detectors, but there was a cost element. The letter box protectors and other items of the sort would be referred to the vulnerable lettings officer and they were trying to get one in every station. If necessary the carbon monoxide detector would be looked into, but would get back to members after investigating the issue with the prevention department.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE - UPDATE

395

PS Ali, West Midlands Police introduced the item and gave the following verbal update: -

The Schools Link Officer was working with the Prince's Trust in relation to improving attendance and diversionary tactics with some of the things that the DWP had mentioned earlier which would be a good linking for the Schools Link Officer. Washwood Heath, Shard End and Bordesley Team had been working with BCC and Housing around the Big Clean Up. They had some successful applicants with the Active Citizens as they had some money from the proceeds of crime from the Police. All the Wards would be working with other groups that were not successful on this occasion to see if they could get this right for future applications.

A drugs warrant was executed on Shard End at a business premises and had carried out some theft warrants last week on Druids Lane, Ward End; Delphinium Close in Shard End resulting in two people being arrested and stolen properties at those addresses being recovered. PSPO area in Washwood Heath and Shard End being regular patrolled. Washwood Heath had had a couple of breaches within the last week with youths identified with some not living within the area and work was being done with the Anti-social Behaviour officer with some follow-up intervention around this.

Further work was being done around St Saviours Road and George Arthur Road with the hostels with the view of looking at the potential increase in the PSPO area. There were some further criminal behaviour orders applications taking place on the back of criminal convictions with some ongoing work being done around people on the constituency around that.

They had some joint operations with Trading Standards with some of the businesses around illegal tobacco and other items which had been successful. Around vehicle crime, they had some offenders arrested around Ward End concerning vehicle crime who was arrested, charged and had been to court and had received a community order. They had also been doing some days out in relation to vehicle crime at Tesco and the Fox and Goose and other business premises where they had fitted registration plates screws so that they would not be easily ripped off or tampered with which had been successful and they would continue with this for the forthcoming weeks.

They had worked around the Fox and Goose with regards to beggars and drugs issues and some business premises. They were working around civilians injunctions with regard to some of the applications they had there. They had some ANPRs with colleagues from the traffic department in the Ward End Park and Bordesley Green area. In relation to burglaries, they had arrests in all four Wards. Those individuals with a footprint for burglaries had been recalled to prison in those areas which had resulted in a reduction in burglaries within the constituency.

Councillor Khan expressed thanks to the local Police for the work done in Washwood Heath and that they had been working on a number of issues in the area. She further expressed thanks to the team for their involvement with the Big Clean Up and advised that a further 8 other clean-up was planned for March. PS Ali undertook to feedback the information to the team. In relation to the begging at Alum Rock Road, this was a seasonal thing and they would investigate this and link into the team that deals with this. Historically, they had undertaken some work there and there may be room for civil work that they could do there.

In response to questions from members, PS Ali stated that they were fully aware of the inconsiderate parking and were issuing tickets on a daily basis. They had held meetings with local residents concerning the issues in some of the roads around Washwood Heath and some within Hodge Hill Ward. Some of the residents had raised the issue of having parking permits in relation to their streets, but there was a wider implication in relation to this as well as cost implications. They were prosecuting and issuing fixed penalty notices around inconsiderate parking and the work was on-going.

In relation to the Road Tax, they could only seize the vehicle if it did not have Road Tax for two months and one day, but they were constantly doing this. With regard to MOT, it becomes a little difficult as it was more the insurance aspect. It was about catching someone driving without insurance and then seizing the vehicle. This was also on-going work.

In terms of charitable collection, having been on the Washwood Heath Ward last year, he was aware of the problems identified. This year, they had made enquiries with the City Council in relation to the collection dates for which charity working during the month of Ramadan. They were expecting Ramadan to fall around the 23rd or the 24th May and it would last for 30 days and it was hoped that they would have a schedule of which charity was collecting on what date and in what area. They would be doing this as a collective approach with the Springfield Ward.

With regard to prostitution, work was being done concerning this and they were taking the approach of the charities working with the ladies or gents who were prostituting themselves. They were referring them to the charities to get the safety and health aspects with the charity. The perpetrators that were being identified were referred to a programme that was designed to help them to change their behaviour. He undertook to raise the issue with the teams concerned.

The Chairman thanked PS Ali for attending and presenting.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

396 None submitted

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR HODGE HILL DISTRICT

397 The Committee agreed for meetings to be held on the following dates for the 2017/18 Municipal Year: -

20 July 2017
21 September 2017
23 November 2017
18 January 2018
22 March 2018

All meetings will be held on Thursdays at 1400 hours in the Council House.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

398 **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.

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CHAIRMAN