

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

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| YARDLEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE 26 MARCH 2015 |
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE YARDLEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 26 MARCH 2015 AT 1330 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 AND 4 COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

PRESENT: - Councillors Sue Anderson, Nawaz Ali, Zaker Choudhry, Roger Harmer, Barbara Jackson, Carol Jones, John O'Shea, Stewart Stacey, Paul Tilsley and Mike Ward.

ALSO PRESENT: -

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| Mushtaq Hussain | - Yardley District Head |
| Sukvinder Kalsi | - Assistant Director, Finance |
| Cynthia Morrison | - Local Housing Manager |
| Jan Jennings | - Repairs (Mears) |
| Superintendent Bas Javid | - West Midlands Police |
| Amelia Murray | - Community Safety Manager |
| Marie Reynolds | - Area Democratic Services Officer |

NOTICE OF RECORDING

268 The Chairman 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.

The whole of the meeting would be filmed except where there were confidential or exempt information.

APOLOGIES

269 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Paul Tilsley for lateness, Councillor Zaker Choudhry for having to leave the meeting prematurely and Councillors Neil Eustace, Zafar Iqbal and John Hemming, MP for their inability to attend the meeting.

MINUTES

- 270 The Minutes of the meeting of the Yardley District Committee held on 26 February 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
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MATTERS ARISING

Minute No. 259 – District Committee Meetings

- 271 The Chairman agreed with Councillor Stacey that it would be appropriate to hold the meetings in the District in the future as they would be a different type of meeting. She subsequently highlighted that remedial work was to be undertaken on the library roof and suggested that consideration should be given to the district meeting being held at the library in the district, adding that it may encourage more members of the public to attend.

Minute No. 265 – Date of Next Meeting

- 272 The Chairman highlighted that the next District Meeting had been re-scheduled from Thursday 18 June 2015 to Thursday 25 June 2015 at 1.30 in Committee Room 6.
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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 273 The Chairman reminded Members to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests relating to items of business to be discussed at this and all future meetings. No declarations of interest were made.
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YARDLEY DISTRICT REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING (MONTH 10 – APRIL TO JANUARY 2015)

The following joint report of the Service Directors (Neighbourhoods and Housing Transformation, Assistant Director Sport Events and Parks and, the Director of Finance was submitted:-

(See document No. 1)

Mr Kalsi provided a comprehensive presentation of the report.

At this juncture the Chairman referred to South Yardley Library roof and the repairs that were to be undertaken and highlighted that the District would not be financially responsible for the repairs and that funding would be provided centrally. She reported that they were awaiting further quotes for the repair work which were expected this week.

The Chairman made reference to Community Chest and reminded members that they ensure their funding was fully committed or spent.

At this juncture, Mr S Kalsi confirmed that any under-spend from Community Chest would be carried forward to 2015/16 although managed centrally.

Following comments from Councillor O'Shea relating to errors in Appendix 2 requested that a revised copy be providing illustrating the correct figures which Mr Kalsi agreed to provide and circulate to all members.

Mr M Hussain, District Head, stated that although most of the funding had been allocated by the Wards suggested that if there was any under-spend outstanding, there were additional projects that had been received for each of the Wards that could be considered.

Following further inaccuracies relating to Appendix 4 raised by Councillor Jackson, the Chairman suggested that all elected members checked the report thoroughly.

Following an enquiry from Councillor Ali regarding Community Chest, Mr M Hussain stated that if the projects had been approved in January they would not be included within this list however agreed to progress the issue.

He referred to the lack of Community Chest funding for next year and stated that he had recently met with a representative from Birmingham Lottery funding and they were concerned that there were not enough lottery funding applications submitted from Yardley District. He therefore stated that the opportunity should be taken to arrange an event in order to invite all of the different Community Chest organisations to meet Birmingham Lottery fund, in order to see whether there were opportunities for some of the groups to tap into this area of funding.

Councillor Harmer made reference to the bid that was being submitted by Acocks Green, Mr M Hussain said that it was the quality of the bids that were not to the required standard and suggested that a request to the lottery funding to provide some development support would be beneficial in order to support organisations in making their applications.

Following a discussion relating to partnership bidding and electing lead members of the partnerships who would not be part of the City Council to submit bids on behalf of their respective partnerships, the Chairman suggested that it could be a way of acquiring funding into Yardley District. She stated that by referring to the District Plan they would be able to see what the priorities were and could concentrate on those priorities. It was suggested the need for training and for the partner members to get together in order to look at the priorities for that particular partnership.

Mr M Hussain reported that although his secondment was due to end on 31 March 2015, he anticipated that he would be in the role for a further month in order to finish off the various areas of work.

The Chairman stated that she was very sorry that Mr M Hussain would soon be leaving the District as he had done some excellent work. She subsequently thanked him which was echoed by elected members.

Mr M Hussain made reference to the plans that had been formulated relating to the employment skills and in terms of the district policy statement he highlighted the importance of ensuring that all of the ideas were documented so that whoever was in charge of the district could work with all of the priorities.

The Chairman concluded by stating that there was a great deal of work to be done and once the elections had passed and the plans were in place hoped that all elected members would participate in taking part in the partnerships. The Chairman referred to the District Plan and suggested that if any members had any additions to the plan that they email them to her and Mr M Hussain, stressing that all of the priorities needed to be included within the plan in order that they were supported.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

274

RESOLVED :-

That Yardley District Committee was requested to:-

Note the latest revenue budget position at the end of January (Month 10) and year-end projected overspend of £0.224m as detailed in Appendix 1.

Note the latest Community Chest allocations and the current financial position as detailed in Appendix 2.

Note the position with regard to the Savings Programme for 2014/15 as detailed in Appendix 3.

Note the position with regards to the capital projects for 2014/15 as detailed in Appendix 4.

PLACE DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 3

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

(See document No. 2)

The Chairman made reference to the report and various pages of the document. She highlighted the replacement of Stechford Cascades and the improvements at Fox Hollies Leisure Centre and the need for the developers keeping elected members up to date directly with the respective developments rather than learning from the Cabinet Report.

A discussion ensued relating to Community Libraries whereupon it was highlighted that the libraries had been selling off old stock and although not reported could be the reason for attendance at libraries reducing.

The Chairman made reference to page 9 of the report pertaining to the good take up of Youth Provision within the district and highlighted that the dedicated youth centre with its high level of footfall should continue to remain open.

At this juncture, Mr M Hussain reported on the up to date position relating to Sheldon Community Centre and the community asset transfer, confirming that the process had commenced with the organisation of a meeting with the existing users, community groups and Birmingham Property Services to discuss the consortium approach and how it could be developed. In the first instance there would be consultation meetings with the existing user groups which were scheduled to happen shortly.

In response to a brief discussion relating to page 15 of the report, Councillor Stacey explained that even if one call was not dealt within the appropriate timescale this could flag up a red indicator.

Councillor Harmer referred to page 17 of the report – ‘Number of Fixed Penalty Notices served’ and ‘Percentage of Rubbish on land requests dealt within 5 working days’ and requested that a more detailed breakdown of information be provided in future.

Following a brief discussion relating to dog fouling and associated issues, the Chairman agreed to contact the department due to the significant amount of dog fouling in the district.

Following a brief discussion relating to page 23 of the report relating to ‘Dangerous defects’, the Chairman agreed that some of the information reported was quite misleading.

Following a discussion relating to page 27 of the report relating to refuse collections and street cleansing, it was highlighted that the bin for the paper was 10% bigger than the old tub albeit awkwardly shaped. It was further highlighted that any additional paper that was left beside the bin would be collected by the department.

Following a further discussion relating to cleanliness and the level of detritus in the district, the Chairman stated that it was important that all elected members did their utmost to change people’s attitudes to rubbish dumping and for members of the public to take responsibility in keeping their own streets and everywhere else clean. She made further reference to the report and the need for more detail rather than percentages in order that specific issues could be raised and addressed accordingly.

Councillor O’Shea praised the Environmental Health Team for being very proactive in increasing their level of work regarding enforcement and subsequently detailed an account of the number of notices that had been issued in Acocks Green Ward.

In response to concern from Councillor Harmer relating to the black bag collections which sometimes got mistaken for commercial waste and did not get collected, Councillor Stacey confirmed that was why the city was investing in the slab in the cab system in order that the crews would in future have the correct up to date information on board and be able to deal with the waste appropriately. He further confirmed that the city had informally agreed the

procurement process for 43 street sweepers. He highlighted that having very recently seen some streets that were unable to have the wheelie bins, was aware of how filthy the streets were, and stated that there was a very strong need to focus on what could be done and to ensure the collection service performed as they should, and street sweeping was re-co-ordinated in order to fall in line with the new collection dates.

The Chairman concluded by stating that a piece of work was being undertaken regarding street sweeping and where it was most required in terms of need and frequency.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

275

RESOLVED:-

That the report and comments be noted.

HOUSING TRANSFORMATION PERFORMANCE REPORT Q3 & YARDLEY DISTRICT NARRATIVE

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

(See document No. 3)

Ms C Morrison, Housing Manager presented the report and the narrative.

Councillor Harmer commented on the reporting of anti-social behaviour and stated that a more robust way of reporting the figures as suggested before was required. He made further reference to the 'right to buy' properties and the negative impact it had in the long term which he highlighted was bad government policy of all parties and needed to be changed. He concluded by congratulating officers achieving high rent collection levels.

The Chairman referred to page 54 of the report and highlighted her concern relating to not knowing how many properties within the district were multi-occupational and how many of those were licensed. She also highlighted the properties that were inspected there was a lack of targets to use as comparisons.

Councillor O'Shea commented that the council housing sales was an utter disaster for housing in this country. He made reference to the work being undertaken regarding HMO licensing across the city and also the broader private landlord licensing taking place in 2 wards outside of Yardley, adding that it was going to become more difficult for the city council to intervene. He highlighted the recently opened centre in Acocks Green Ward and the excellent bed and breakfast service it was providing.

In response to further comments relating to the report, Councillor Stacey made reference to the rent collections and why collections certain times of the year could result in 101% due to the rent and existing arrears being collected

together. He made reference to page 56 – ‘Number of requests for assistance’ and explained in detail that it did not just apply to HMO’s but all private tenancies.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Ms Morrison for attending the meeting and reporting.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

276

RESOLVED:-

That the report and comments be noted.

COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

Superintendent Bas Javid reported that the Local Delivery Group which acts across East Birmingham which included the 3 Districts; Hall Green, Hodge Hill and Yardley was a mini version of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership. He stated that it sought to bring together a more local response to the strategic priorities as well as support locally based priorities as much as possible.

He reported that whilst he chaired the group it was vice-chaired by Wes Williams (WMFS). The group was supported by Amelia Murray and there were representatives from other partners such as BCC Housing and Children’s Services, and Registered Providers such as Friendship and Care Housing. It was highlighted that Councillor Sue Anderson was the District Representative for Yardley District.

The BCSP identified 5 strategic priorities for 2014-16; Domestic Violence, Youth Violence, Mobilising Communities; Vulnerable People and Business Related Crime. Mobilising Communities also included; Road Safety, Litter and Environmental ASB; Burglary and Substance Misuse. The Vulnerable People strand also included Mental Health; FGM; Repeat and Vulnerable Victims of ASB and Forced Marriage.

It was noted that East Birmingham LDGF had an operational plan structured around these strategic priorities which outlined how these issues could be tackled by working together with all the partners. There was also an additional local priority - Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE). The Plan was originally developed with partners 12 months ago and shared with Committee in June 2014, it has since been further refined with the arrival of the new Chair, Bas and support officer Amelia Murray.

Since June, there had been a significant amount of work being undertaken around the LDG to re-fresh and re-launch it amongst its membership, and there had been a focus on ensuring the right people were involved and the strengthening of the relationships between partners.

Superintendent Bas Javid reported on the current position for total recorded crime across Yardley District had increased by 5.3% which equated to one extra victim per day. However this month performance had reduced by 7.4% which equated to one less victim per day. He highlighted that the current priority for Yardley District was Burglary and Vehicle Crime, and referred to the various policing operations in around targeting these areas of crime. He added that as the figures varied from one ward to another, he could provide information on a more ward based level by cascading the information to the local sergeants and inspectors before any future district meetings.

At this juncture, Amelia Murray reported on anti-social behaviour and stated that one of the key focuses was around the Ackers Trust. She confirmed that there had been some issues with youths congregating there and causing damage and subsequently detailed the areas of work that had been undertaken by the South Yardley Neighbourhood Team in addressing these issues.

Amelia Murray reported on the measure relating to 'how safe people feel during the day' within Yardley District which although falling below the city average it was improving quarter on quarter. Historically Yardley District alongside Hodge Hill District had been one of the lowest districts across the city for a number of years. She highlighted that her concern with the information was that it did not provide the reason why people felt this way and therefore difficult to provide a solution.

She further reported that during 2014/15 the LDG approach had been to provide targeted diversionary activities which had been held at key areas identified through calls to the Police by local residents. In addition, relevant Neighbourhood Teams had also identified young people in these areas who were specifically referred to these programmes. The original programme in this district was delivered during the summer holidays and in Stechford and Yardley/North and Acocks Green Wards, adding that new programme had just started. The LDG was currently reviewing how it would approach this area of work in 2015/16, and an analysis had been commissioned through the Police to assist with this.

Amelia Murray referred to the flagging up of mental health by a number of partners which was becoming an increasing feature of their work. She confirmed that the LDG had arranged a local partnership between the Mental Health Trust and BCC Housing, in the first instance. A single point of contact to share information at an operational level had been established, this was now being developed to align mental health staff to partnership structures. Staff from across the LDG partners had received accredited Mental Health First Aid Training in recent months, which had been funded through the LDG. It was noted that they were looking to move forward with this to investigate how they could provide crisis and housing support as well as improve local knowledge of where to refer people.

She referred to the Safer Community Groups that operated across the city to tackle complex partnership cases of anti-social behaviour. This in addition to day to day partnership working was a successful way for professionals to move forward with cases for the benefits of the community and to co-ordinate a joint

approach. The group for Yardley District was chaired by Inspector Ruth Tissington and would involve representatives from the registered providers; West Midlands Fire Service and Birmingham City Council. Currently there were 19 cases for the district. These cases involved youth related ASB; neighbour disputes; substance misuse and mental health. It was noted that there may be some changes to how those groups operate in the future due to the introduction of new legislation.

Amelia Murray stated that under its Mobilising Communities strand, the Community Partnership allocated a £180,000 to a small grants fund which was available to community organisations for small scale activities. The applications were approved by a panel which included community lay members who sat on the Community Partnership. She highlighted that the take up in Yardley and Hodge Hill Districts around small grants had been very low and suggested that she would happy to offer support and work alongside the district if required.

Following a discussion relating to more local reporting and comparison of trends over several years, Superintendent Bas Javid agreed to provide the requested information on a ward basis.

In response to an enquiry relating to the continuation of tasking meetings, Amelia Murray confirmed that tier 2 and neighbourhood tasking meetings would remain, stating that at presently, they were refreshing and tightening up on some elements of their structure and administration arrangements.

In response to Councillor Jones' comment relating to a serious incident that had taken place at Christmas and had received no feedback due to the lack of a tasking meeting, Amelia Murray agreed to feedback.

In response to further comments from elected members, Superintendent Bas Javid referred to the forthcoming changes in 2020, confirmed that there would be changes taking place in investigation response and neighbourhood policing, adding that he was keen to know what it would mean locally. He confirmed that information was being circulated as and when it was available and subsequently agreed to circulate to elected members and M.P.s.

With regard to tier 2 and tasking meetings, he stated that his expectation was that they were scheduled at regular periods in all of the districts and if this was not taking place, would expect inspectors to feedback and agreed to provide support to ensure that they took place.

With regard to the movement of sergeants within the district, Superintendent Bas Javid stated that there were a number of reasons for their movement which he agreed to discuss with members on a one to one basis, adding that none of the decisions had been taken lightly. He stated that the sergeants that were now in place the expectation was that they remained for quite a while longer. He concluded by stating that he would provide his contact details to all elected members in case they wished to speak to him on an ongoing basis rather than wait for the next district meeting.

Yardley District Committee – 26 March 2015

Following the discussion, the Chairman agreed that the information provided in the future should be on a ward by ward basis together with the narrative providing explanations and to also advise everybody of the next Community Safety meeting.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Superintendent Bas Javid and Amelia Murray for attending the meeting and providing an update.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

277

RESOLVED:-

That the update and comments be noted.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE IN BIRMINGHAM: THE NEXT DECADE

The following briefing note to District and Ward Committees March 2015 was submitted:-

(See document No. 4)

278

RESOLVED;-

That the briefing note be noted.

PETITIONS

279

There were no petitions presented to the meeting.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

The following District Committee Work Programme 2014/15 was submitted:-

(See document No. 5)

Upon further consideration, it was:-

280

RESOLVED;-

That the District Committee Work Programme 2014/15 be noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

281

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 25 June 2015 at 13:30 hours in Committee Room 6, Council House.

MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS MEETING – 26 MARCH 2015

- 282 The Chairman referred to the above-mentioned meeting and the subjects that would be discussed whereupon she agreed to feedback to all elected members.
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SOUTH YARDLEY LIBRARY ROOF - REPAIRS

- 283 The Chairman reiterated that the above-mentioned repair work would be funded centrally.
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COUNCILLOR BARBARA JACKSON

- 284 The Chairman confirmed that it would be Councillor Barbara Jackson's last district meeting as she would be retiring. She subsequently thanked Councillor Jackson for all her help and assistance over the years and wished her a happy retirement. A further vote of thanks was endorsed by Councillor Stacey who added that she had been a good colleague who had always been very fair and reasonable.
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CHAIRMAN – THANK YOU

- 285 Councillor Tilsley thanked the Chairman for chairing the district meetings over the last several years and especially for the last Municipal Year.
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AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

- 286 **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 Executive functions delegated to it by the Cabinet, the appropriate Chief Officers are hereby authorised to act in consultation with the Chairman and that Director of Legal and 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.

The meeting ended at 15:15 hours.

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CHAIRMAN