

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

YARDLEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE 19 NOVEMBER 2015
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE YARDLEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 1330 HOURS
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillors Sue Anderson, Nawaz Ali, Zakar Choudhry, Basharat Dad, Neil Eustace, Roger Harmer, Zafar Iqbal, Carol Jones, John O'Shea, Stewart Stacey, Paul Tilsley and Mike Ward.

ALSO PRESENT: -

Gary Ladbrooke	- Integrated Service Head
Lesley Poulton	- Integrated Service Head
Chris Robinson	- Acting Senior Housing Manager
Sergeant Sharon Revitt	- West Midlands Police
Amelia Murray	- Community Safety Manager
Jaswinder Didiaily	- Education and Infrastructure
Marie Reynolds	- Area Democratic Services Officer

NOTICE OF RECORDING

335 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

336 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Tilsley and Stacey for lateness and Councillors Iqbal and Harmer for having to leave the meeting prematurely in order to attend a further meeting.

At this juncture, Gary Ladbrooke confirmed that he would be taking over as District Lead for Yardley District for the next few months however, as he was the Lead Officer for the Districts in Scrutiny, he would be leaving shortly and his colleague, Lesley Poulton would be replacing him at this meeting.

MINUTES

- 337 The Minutes of the meeting of the Yardley District Committee held on 1 October 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 338 No declarations were submitted
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CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Charity Open day located at The Poolway (Old Neighbourhood Office)

- 339 The Chairman made reference to the above-mentioned event and although she and Councillor Jones was unable to attend, she had visited the premises a week before the event, and subsequently encouraged members to visit as it was an excellent service that the charity was providing support for cancer sufferers and their families.

Councillor Dad confirmed that he had attended the open-day and agreed that it was a fantastic centre and reiterated the chairman's suggestion of members taking time to visit.

The Radleys – Christmas Lights Switch On – 25 November 2015

- 340 The Chairman made reference to the above-mentioned event and the fact that people had worked extremely hard in raising money to support this event.

Councillor Ward highlighted that there would be no Christmas lights on the Coventry Road this year however would look to maybe having them there next year. The Chairman confirmed that she had visited the retailers on the Coventry Road and had encouraged them to decorate their shops with Christmas lights.

Councillor O'Shea remarked on the Christmas lights in Acocks Green Ward and confirmed that they would be switched on this Saturday, 21 November 2015 at 16:15. Reference was made to the funding of the lights and the Chairman suggested the need to try and get further funding bids across the district in the future.

At this juncture, the Chairman agreed to vary the order of the agenda.

**EDUCATION SUFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS – POOLWAY
DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER AREAS**

Jaswinder Didially, Education and Infrastructure, circulated the following information relating to the Education Services Core Offer 2015-16 and associated documentation:-

(See document No. 1)

Jaswinder Didially reported that it was a good opportunity to begin the engagement process with districts and as a result of this, referred to the information pack that she had circulated at the meeting relating to the Birmingham City Council Education Offer and also referred to the Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP), which was a new development in bringing forward school led school improvement.

She highlighted that in order to help members support delivery of the city's education vision and priorities and to assist with the range of issues that could be raised by constituents, the initial information pack had been provided and suggested that as this was the first district meeting, that any feedback relating to information members would find of value in the future would be most helpful.

Jaswinder Didially referred to the core offer document which outlined the different services offered to support schools and specifically referred to page 7 that detailed the key priorities for 2015/16. She highlighted that also contained in the pack in order to help and navigate was the 'Right Service, Right Time' which was a guidance for practitioners that could also assist members in signposting to the right service, if unsure of where to find the support. Reference was made to the 'Special Educational Needs' leaflet and the website 'mycareinbirmingham.org.uk which provided details around the 'Local Offer'.

Jaswinder Didially referred to the local information that had been provided relating to the schools within the district highlighting that they had tried to capture the major capital investment in schools, and where schools had been expanded to meet basic needs albeit the document was still in the development stage, due to the necessity of more updated information before it was available on line. She further highlighted page 5 relating to the number of births and how they related to the cohorts of children coming through and regarding the school place planning cycle, she confirmed that the department was at the moment refreshing and revising their forecasts for the number of school places required from 2016 that would be available in November 2015, which she agreed to circulate.

The Chairman thanked Jaswinder for the information and highlighted the importance of the connection with Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) with regard to working with them.

As a result of the presentation, in response to comments and questions from members the following were amongst the points raised:-

Jaswinder Didially referred to the importance of Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) highlighting that there was a subscription side that schools could choose to be a part of if they wished, although, every education provider in the city was part of the establishment. She stated that BEP was a working

partnership with the city council and was a route to helping schools improve at every level across the city.

She stated that schools in Birmingham were performing at 80% and that school improvement was about getting schools from good to outstanding and ideally from outstanding to super outstanding and through BEP, schools would help schools to improve at every level.

She stated that all head teachers had a voice through BEP and subsequently referred to the election model that had been adopted; the points of contact and the fact that schools had been divided into districts, which would improve links with communication in the future. The key priority was to ensure that every child attended a good or better school and to work even better to drive standards. It was noted the importance the part schools played in improving the city as the place to be and grow up in, and it was requested that members continued to celebrate and promote the success of the schools in Birmingham that were doing an excellent job.

In response to an enquiry relating to extra tutorials, Jaswinder agreed to investigate and liaise directly with Councillor Jones.

A further comment was highlighted regarding the unattached playing fields especially Flaxley that had a long term lease. It was suggested that they find out exactly what they were delivering and how well they were working in partnership with other organisations.

A further comment was made regarding what the education attainment levels in Yardley were compared to other areas across the city, and also the student progression levels to further education and jobs and if this information could be made available.

Jaswinder Didially referred to the current picture as it stood, and the fact that the present data captured known housing developments and therefore sufficiency requirements were updated accordingly. She reiterated that that the department was at the moment refreshing and revising their forecasts for the number of school places required from 2016/2017 whereby they would then follow the process and criteria to create those places. Once the sufficiency document had been published this would be brought to district committee which would capture the birth and cohort growth. She highlighted that the cohort growth was unprecedented with the impact of the net migration into the city with new families arriving from outside of Birmingham. She stated that they were trying to inject the capacity throughout the year with classes introduced post September, January and April to ensure families and young people were able to stay together.

Jaswinder Didially referred to the graph relating to the secondary provision which indicated that at the present there was over capacity for the number of pupils requiring school places. She referred to the issue relating to some schools expanding whilst others were at risk as well as the introduction of 'free schools'. She referred to Cockshut Hill School and the area of work in re-branding it with the help of their very strong partner which was believed the school would be turned around and become a first choice school in time.

Councillor Ali requested that as the Yardley Jobs and Skills Champion requested that a member of BEP be nominated to sit on the Jobs and Skills Board.

The Chairman concluded by stating that all members wanted the same outcomes for the children and young people, adding that they would want them all to receive a good education and be successful in leading independent lives and that all had a responsibility in making this happen. She stated that from a personal point of view, it would be excellent if BEP could help members by introducing them to schools as presently this was proving somewhat difficult.

Jaswinder Didiaily confirmed that the department may not be able to provide the information on pupil premium. She stated that the shared aim was that all wanted their children and young people to attend good or outstanding schools and recognised that time factors were important when schools were working to improve. She further stated that it would be useful that when schools progressed forward that local members were contacted.

The Chairman thanked Jaswinder Didiaily for attending the meeting and presenting.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

341

RESOLVED:-

That the presentation and comments be noted.

COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE- FUTURE OF POLICING- SHELDON POLICE STATION AND OTHER STATIONS

Sergeant Sharon Revitt provided a brief update. She referred to the programme of change that was taking place with regard to the future of policing and the financial savings that had been made to date and the savings that would be made over the next 5 years.

Reference was made to the neighbourhood policing units which were focusing on preventing harm, early intervention and problem solving and engaging the public to involve them in policing. She stated that Superintendent Commander Richard Moore would be briefing members of any substantial changes in the New Year. She highlighted that the review of neighbourhood policing had commenced in July and it had been agreed 2 weeks ago that they were looking to reduce the PCSO's over the next 5 years. She hoped that a number of the PCSO's would aspire to be police officers.

She reported that Sheldon Police Station was expected to close in the next 2 years as it was not cost effective for it to remain open. She added that there were no plans to close Acocks Green and Stechford Police Stations.

She highlighted that crime in Yardley District was currently reducing by almost 4% year to date. She highlighted that the current priority focus was on Sheldon

and South Yardley Wards and made reference to the 'darker night campaign' in encouraging residents to be more security conscious especially when leaving their properties. She further highlighted that there had been a spate of burglaries however since an arrest had been made this had since reduced drastically.

Members expressed their disappointment and concern that PCSO's would be reducing as they had all found them to have been an excellent asset across the district as well as a visible force. Further concern was raised regarding the loss of police stations built up with public money and Councillor Tilsley was looking to urge both the police constables office and the police crime commissioner's office to look to provide more of a mixed service hub in order that other partners could also utilise the facilities.

Sergeant Sharon Revitt confirmed that the whole force were very disappointed that they were losing so many PCSO's adding that she hoped that they joined the recruitment and became police officers. She stated that PCSO's would hopefully remain in Yardley District and that the numbers would be a fair reflection. She further stated that there had been a shaving down of senior managers and believed it would continue. With regard to CCTV cameras for businesses she stated that there was not the funding available, however, if businesses required help in obtaining CCTV cameras they would try and support them with their bids if required.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Sergeant Sharon Revitt for attending the meeting and providing an update.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

342

RESOLVED:-

That the update and comments be noted.

HOUSING TRANSFORMATION PERFORMANCE REPORT Q2 & YARDLEY DISTRICT NARRATIVE

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

(See document No. 2)

Chris Robinson, Acting Senior Housing Manager presented the report and the narrative.

In response to an enquiry relating to sheltered high rise and whether there were any plans to improve them, Chris Robinson referred to the review that had prompted cuts in funding which had impacted on the warden service and the 1% reduction in rent income which affected services more generally. He highlighted that many authorities across the country were encountering the same issue and that older people now had much higher expectations of where they wanted to live during their retirement. He further highlighted, that some

accommodation was not in locations where people wanted to live, adding that it would have to be raised at some time if the demand was not there for sheltered accommodation in the future.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

343

RESOLVED:-

That the report and comments be noted.

**BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME
ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS BUDGET**

The following report of the Strategic Director Place was submitted:-

(See document No. 3)

The following projects were considered:-

Acocks Green Ward Lakefield Close – upgraded fencing (Awarded £31,238.00)	£30,391.70
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Sheldon Ward Silvermere Road – upgraded fencing (Awarded £23,203.00)	£21,295.00
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South Yardley Ward – Hard standing bin areas – Kestrel Avenue, Berkeley Road and Larch Walk (Awarded £24,144)	£22,656.00
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Stechford & Yardley North – install bin storage areas and upgraded fencing 86-104 Church and 12-26 Stud Lane (Awarded £25,775) (£29,178.00 request)HLB to fund	£29,604.00 426.00
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Upon further consideration, it was:-

344

RESOLVED:-

That the District Committee:-

Noted progress in connection with the projects initiated in 2014/15.

Approved the projects outlined at Appendix 2.

Noted the budget position statement provided at Appendix 3.

LANDLORD SERVICES ANNUAL VISITS

The report of the Head of Landlord Services was submitted:-

(See document No. 4)

In response to comments, Chris Robinson confirmed that the front and rear gardens were a huge issue which was partly due to an ageing population that were less able and also there now seemed to be less of a family support network in place, and that there were a number of people that were socially isolated that did not engage with the city council which was partly due to the services that were undertaken on line.

He stated that there was going to be a new focus on tenant engagement and whilst it was recognised that HLB's do an excellent job it did not always suit everybody. He added that when the opportunities arose the department did engage with tenants and highlighted that the vast majority of people wanted to live their lives and not want to be involved too much with local issues that did not directly affect them.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

345

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

AMEY CONTRACT COMPLIANCE

346

The Chairman reported that she had met with BCC officers and that they were working hard with regard to contract compliance relating to Amey.

FLEET AND WASTE MANAGEMENT – INFORMATION UPDATE

The following memorandum was submitted:-

(See document No. 5)

347

RESOLVED:-

That the information be noted.

HEART OF ENGLAND NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

The following information was submitted:-

(See document No. 6)

348

RESOLVED:-

That the information be noted.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

349 The following schedule of meetings was noted:-

All meetings will be held on the following Thursdays at 1330 hours in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham:

28 January 2016 and 24 March 2016

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

350 **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 15:45 hours.

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CHAIRMAN