

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

**SUTTON COLDFIELD  
DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MONDAY 29 JUNE 2015**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUTTON  
COLDFIELD DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON  
MONDAY 29 JUNE 2015 AT 1700 HOURS,  
COMMITTEE ROOM 6, THE COUNCIL HOUSE,  
BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Maureen Cornish, Andrew Hardie, Meirion Jenkins, Ewan Mackey, David Pears, Rob Pocock, Anne Underwood, Margaret Waddington, Ken Wood and Alex Yip

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:** Supt. Brandon Langley, West Midlands Police  
Jon Grimshaw, West Midlands Fire Service  
Eric Shipton – Housing Liaison Board  
Lorna Steers – Housing Liaison Board

**ALSO PRESENT**

Patrick Canavan – Area Housing Manager, Housing Services  
Beverly Edmead – Democratic Services Officer  
Parmjeet Jassal – Head of City Finance, Place Directorate  
Gary Ladbroke – District Lead, Sutton Coldfield  
Connie Price – District Lawyer, Legal Services

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Richard Mason – Chairman, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall Campaign Group

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**ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER (DISTRICT CHAIRMAN) FOR  
SUTTON COLDFIELD DISTRICT**

**RESOLVED:-**

01                      That Councillor Anne Underwood be elected as Executive Member (District Chairman) for the Municipal Year 2015/2016.

**COUNCILLOR ANNE UNDERWOOD IN THE CHAIR**

**ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR SUTTON COLDFIELD DISTRICT**

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor David Barrie be elected as Vice Chairman for Sutton Coldfield District for the Municipal Year 2015/2016.

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

02 The Chairman advised that this meeting was webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site [www.birminghamnewsroom.com](http://www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that 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 items.

It was noted there were no confidential or exempt items to be discussed at the meeting.

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**MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE**

03 Members noted that the City Council had appointed District Committees.

The membership of the Sutton Coldfield District Committee, therefore being as follows:-.

**Councillors: -**

Maureen Cornish, Meirion Jenkins and Anne Underwood (Sutton Four Oaks Ward)

David Barrie, Ken Wood and Alex Yip (Sutton New Hall Ward)

Ewan Mackey, David Pears and Margaret Waddington (Sutton Trinity Ward)

Lyn Collin, Andrew Hardie and Rob Pocock (Sutton Vesey Ward)

**Co-opted Members:-**

Supt Brandon Langley – West Midlands Police

Jon Grimshaw – Station Commander, West Midlands Fire Service

Eric Shipton – Housing Liaison Board Representative

Lorna Steers – Housing Liaison Board Representative

Andrew Mitchell, MP was also invited to all meetings.

The Chairman formally welcomed Councillor Yip, who had been successfully elected to serve as Ward Councillor for Sutton New Hall Ward following the Local Elections in May, and wished him well in his new role.

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The Chairman also welcomed Superintendent Brandon Langley, West Midlands Police and Jon Grimshaw, Station Commander, West Midlands Fire Service.

A special welcome was given to local resident Richard Mason, Chairman of the Sutton Coldfield Town Hall Campaign Group.

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### **APOLOGIES**

- 04 Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors David Barrie and Lyn Collin.
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### **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

- 05 **RESOLVED:-**

Members were reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared, a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations would be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting.

There were no interests declared.

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### **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DISTRICT COMMITTEES**

- 06 Members noted the Code of Conduct for District Committees.

(See Document No. 1)

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### **DISTRICT COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS AND GUIDELINES**

- 07 Members noted the Executive Powers, Rules of Governance and Functions for District Committees.

(See Document No. 2)

The Chairman briefly outlined the changes to the remit of District Committees, which over time, would see more interaction with local partner agencies and scrutiny focus on services delivered at a local level.

Councillor Wood sought further information regarding when the role and remit of District Committees would be finalised.

The Chairman advised that a training and development programme to shape the role of Districts and Wards was ongoing with Overview & Scrutiny and District Chairs; this would eventually be rolled out to Ward Chairs and wider Members in due course. The process was also being overseen by the Independent

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Improvement Panel, set up in wake of the Kerslake report, which had some impact on the progress made.

The Chairman suggested that once details of the training and development programme had been finalised, a Members Information Briefing Group meeting would be arranged to advise Members accordingly.

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### **DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

08 The following District Committee Appointments were made for the Municipal Year 2015 – 2016:-

Corporate Parent Champion – Councillor Alex Yip  
Heritage and Culture Champion – Councillor Margaret Waddington

It was:-

#### **RESOLVED:-**

That the above District Committee Appointments for Municipal Year 2015 – 2016 be noted.

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### **MINUTES**

05 The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2015, having been circulated to Members were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

#### **Matters Arising**

Councillor Pears sought a further information update on the changes at Wyndley Leisure Centre.

Gary Ladbrooke, District Lead advised there had been a few teething problems since Serco took over the running of the centre on 1 June 2015; however Serco had been working hard to resolve them and it is expected that the changes would be in place from September. Mr Ladbrooke proposed that representatives from Serco should attend the next District Committee meeting to provide Members with an update.

Mr Ladbrooke further advised that following a meeting with users at Ley Hill Bowling Green, an additional increase in subscriptions had been agreed along with a reduction in the maintenance charge agreements; this however, had led to a reduction in the number of users. The Parks Department were also looking into the irrigation issues on the bowling greens, and a further update would be provided to Members in due course.

Referring to the Employment and Skills Plan which had been deferred at the last meeting, Mr Ladbrooke advised that more detailed work was being undertaken

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with Job Centre Plus, and that the agenda item would be included in the future District Work Programme.

Councillor Pocock queried whether the quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports would continue to be provided to District Committees, and if Members could input/help shape the structure and content of future reports.

Gary Ladbroke advised that discussions were still ongoing, and further details would be provided as the role and remit of District Committees developed.

There were no other matters arising from the Minutes.

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The Chairman proposed a change to the running order of the Agenda, and that the Sutton Coldfield Town Hall Information Update be brought forward.

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### **SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN HALL INFORMATION UPDATE**

The Chairman welcomed Richard Mason, Chairman of the Sutton Coldfield Town Hall Campaign Group.

Richard Mason briefly advised that the campaign group had been set up following a meeting with the Town Hall Users Group last autumn.

An initial report indicating the interest and proposals from the Group was submitted to the City Council, and with the help and support of Cllrs Underwood and Pocock, and Gary Ladbroke, District Lead, a decision was taken by the Deputy Leader to defer the final decision on the Town Hall thus enabling the Group to put together a business case giving details of their proposals to safeguard the future of the Town Hall.

Mr Mason confirmed that the Group – Sutton Coldfield Arts and Recreational Trust was fully constituted, and had very committed group of 12 members from a variety of backgrounds and business skills, all of whom shared the same vision of retaining Sutton Coldfield Town Hall.

The Trust had applied for charitable status and was awaiting its charity number. To date, a number of fundraising events had taken place, with more planned for the future, and a building survey had also been undertaken and plans drawn up by a member of the group who was very experienced in this particular field. The Trust was currently working towards producing a full business plan for submission to the Deputy Leader in September.

In response to questions from Councillor Pears regarding the financial pledges collected to date, Mr Mason confirmed these had been fully recorded and receipted by the Trust, and managed in accordance with financial regulations.

Councillor Pocock commended Mr Mason on the efforts undertaken thus far by the Group in trying to safeguard the future of Sutton Coldfield Town Hall, and called on Members to continue to support the efforts of the Group.

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The Chairman also commended the work of Mr Mason on behalf of the District Committee, and wished the Group every success as they moved forward with their business plan.

The Chairman thanked Richard Mason for his attendance and information update.

It was:-

### **RESOLVED:-**

That the information update be noted.

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## **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

11 These were agreed as follows:-

Monday 21 September 2015  
Monday 23 November 2015  
Monday 25 January 2016  
Monday 21 March 2016

All meetings to be held at 5pm, Committee Rooms 3 & 4, The Council House, Birmingham and would be live web-streamed over the Internet.

Members expressed disappointment that meetings would continue to be held centrally, and that consideration should be given to local meetings for matters of significance and specific relevance to the district. The Chairman advised that permission had been sought to hold the district meetings locally, however, the limited staffing resources and streaming equipment meant this would be unlikely.

The Chairman further advised that requests for locally held District Committee meetings would still be made.

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## **CHAIRMAN'S ACTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

12 The Chairman advised of the following:-

- (i) Sutton Fun run 31 May – over 7,000 runners took part to raise thousands for charity despite the poor weather. The Chairman commended the efforts of everyone who had taken part.
- (ii) Sutton Coldfield Annual Community Games would take place on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July at Wyndley Leisure Centre from 12 -6pm. The event was a wonderful way of showcasing the sporting variety, athleticism and talent within the district. Participants of all ages and abilities were encouraged.
- (iii) The Big Hoot 2015 – a flock of specially crafted owls would be on display in the district from 20 July for 10 weeks, as part of the citywide art project for

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the summer. The initiative, launched by Wild in Art in partnership with Birmingham Children's Hospital aimed to raise much needed hospital funds. The owls would be sponsored by several local organisations including Sutton Coldfield Town Centre BID, the Gracechurch Centre and Birmingham Metropolitan College Sutton Coldfield Campus.

- (iv) Mere Green Shopping Centre Redevelopment – work has finally commenced on the long awaited and much needed redevelopment of the site.
- (v) The City of Birmingham Triathlon would take place on 19 July 2015 in Sutton Park, the perfect setting for running, cycling, swimming and watching. Further details were available on the Council website.
- (vi) Sutton Coldfield Town Council Consultative Ballot 25 June – 16 July 2015  
The ballot paper and information booklet, which includes a list of Frequently Asked Questions had been issued to all residents on the electoral register following the Local Elections on 7 May 2015. Ballot papers must be returned no later than 3pm on 16 July 2015.

The Chairman stressed the importance of reading the accompanying FAQs and returning the completed ballot paper before the closing date.

There were no other announcements.

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### **GREEN BELT DEVELOPMENT – INFORMATION UPDATE**

The Chairman advised that the Planning Officers were unable to attend the meeting to give an update as they were still awaiting the Inspector's Modifications.

The Modifications would outline the changes the Inspector felt were necessary to make the Birmingham Development Plan (BDP) sound. The intention was to report the Modifications to Cabinet Committee on 27 July 2015.

Public consultation on the modifications amended sustainability appraisal would be held over August/September, with the adoption of the Plan expected in early 2016.

The Chairman further advised that Officers would attend the next District Committee to explain the implications for Sutton Coldfield arising from the Inspector's Modifications.

Members felt that consideration should be given to the next Committee meeting being held in the District, given the implications the Modifications would have for Sutton Coldfield. Concerns were also expressed regarding the consultation period which appeared would take place around the main summer holiday period. Superintendent Langley advised that live streaming facilities were available at Sutton Coldfield Police Station, and the District Committee meeting could be adequately accommodated if approval was given for the meeting to be held locally.

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Gary Ladbrooke, District Head undertook to discuss the timetable for the consultation period with Planning Officers, and to arrange for a visit to be made to Sutton Coldfield Police Station to assess its suitability for the next District Committee meeting. Members would be advised accordingly.

It was:-

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**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the verbal information update be noted.
- (ii) That the District Head and Committee Manager be requested to ascertain the suitability of Sutton Coldfield Police Station as an alternative venue with live streaming facilities for the next meeting of the District Committee.

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**SUTTON COLDFIELD DISTRICT – INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2015**

The following joint report of the Service Directors (District Services and Housing Transformation) and the Director of Finance was submitted:-

(See Document No. 3)

Parmjeet Jassal, Head of City Finance presented the report, and drew Members' attention to Section 5 and the associated appendices which provided detailed information regarding the District's financial performance and outturn expenditure for 2014/15.

Councillor Pocock questioned the car parks income target, and how realistic achieving the target was in line with previous years, and sought further clarity on the Business Support element of the budget.

Parmjeet Jassal advised that all council owned car parks had been set challenging income targets as the Council sought to generate and maximise its income. Business Support costs tended to be employee and facilities related; the income target had not been realised due to difficulties in particular with maximising the vacant office space and use of the meeting rooms in Sutton Coldfield Library.

In response to further questions from Councillor Pocock regarding the car parking income targets, Gary Ladbrooke undertook to provide Councillor Pocock with more detailed information following the meeting.

The Chairman thanked Parmjeet Jassal for her attendance and presentation, and on behalf of the District Committee thanked Parmjeet and Fazal Khan, Finance Officer for their continued support and assistance over the last few years.



It was:-

**RESOLVED:-**

That the District Committee:-

- (i) Noted the net overspend of £1.141m for Directly Managed and SLA Services as detailed in Appendix 1, compared to a projected overspend of £1.773m at Month 10 after taking into account the write off debit balances from 2013/14 of £0.713m. The net overspend has been written off corporately as approved by Cabinet on 16 March 2015.
- (ii) Noted the financial position on the Community Chest projects of an underspend of £0.074m, as detailed in Appendix 2, which would be carried forward into 2015/16 to fund approved commitments.

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**FUTURE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS/DISTRICT WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman advised the future District Work Programme would be updated accordingly once the role and remit of District Committees became clearer.

Gary Ladbrooke introduced Patrick Canavan, Local Housing Manager, North District, who would be attending future meetings in Carol Dawson's absence.

Gary Ladbrooke advised that Members could consider inviting a local services providers to a future meeting, and suggested that Fleet and Waste Management Were invited to the next meeting, given the ongoing problems with the refuse collection following the implementation of the wheelie bins.

**Open Forum/ Any Other Business – All District Committee Members**

The Chairman invited Members comments and concerns on any matters they wished to raise.

Councillor Pears expressed an interest in the Community Development Plan for Sutton Coldfield District and requested that further information was made available to Members in due course.

Councillor Pocock sought further clarity on the future of Neighbourhood Tasking Meetings in light of the restructuring of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams. Superintendent Langley advised that discussions were ongoing with the Chief Officer and appropriate Executive Officers, and that an update would be provided in due course. In the meantime, local policing teams would continue to undertake their duties until the new arrangements had been confirmed.

Eric Shipton, Chair, Sutton Coldfield HLB advised of ongoing problems with refuse and recycling collection following the implementation of the wheelie bins, particularly on Falcon Lodge Estate. The problems still had not been resolved despite several telephone calls to the Contact Centre.

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The Chairman advised the matter had been raised with Councillor Trickett, Cabinet Member.

Councillor Yip sought further information on how Members were able to shape/influence future budget setting for the District. Gary Ladbrooke advised there were still savings to be made across the remaining services at a local level, and that details would be provided to Members in due course.

Councillor Mackey advised that school expansions across the district remained a concern to many, given the existing problems with obstructive parking and traffic congestion, and requested that Planning Education Officers were invited to attend a future meeting.

The Chairman thanked all Members for their comments.

It was:-

15                    **RESOLVED:-**

That the comments be noted, and the matters raised be included in the future District Work Programme.

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**OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)**

16                    None submitted.

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**AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

17                    **RESOLVED:-**

That in an urgent situation, the Chairman jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

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The meeting closed at 1752hrs

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CHAIRMAN