

# BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

<b>NORTHFIELD DISTRICT COMMITTEE FRIDAY 20 JANUARY 2017</b>
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHFIELD  
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON FRIDAY 20  
JANUARY 2017 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE  
ROOMS 3 & 4, THE COUNCIL HOUSE,  
BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT:** - Councillor Steve Booton in the Chair;

Councillors Randal Brew, Andy Cartwright, Debbie Clancy, Ian Cruise, Carole Griffiths, Peter Griffiths, Simon Jevon, Julie Johnson, Brett O'Reilly, Peter Douglas Osborn, Valerie Seabright.

**ALSO PRESENT:** - Richard Burden MP  
Councillor Bruce Pitt – Frankley in Bham Parish Council

One member of the public was in attendance.

**NEET PRESENTERS:** - DWP: Roger Varley, Relationship Manager  
Jan Collymore, Area Youth Officer, BCC Youth Service  
Asma Ali, Youth & Employment Initiative (South Bham)  
Andrew Barnes, Employment & Skills Officer, BCC  
Harri Ghalib, Manager, Prospects  
Kam Hundal, Employment & Skills Manager

**OFFICERS PRESENT:-**

Richard Davies – District Head (Northfield)  
Paul Wells – Leisure Projects and Client Manager  
Jamie Bryant – Partnership Director for Birmingham Community Leisure Trust  
Glenn Smith – Senior District Engineer  
Sarah Stride – Committee Manager.

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

397 The Chairman advised that the meeting will be 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 will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items.

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**APOLOGIES**

398 No apologies were submitted.

**MINUTES**

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**RESOLVED:-**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 18 November 2016, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- i) Councillor Brew made reference to paragraph C on page 275 of the Minutes and requested as to whether any progress had been made on the Committee's desire to meet out in the District.

The District Head advised that investigations were ongoing and as yet no firm conclusions could be announced. He stated that he would pursue the request and provide a definitive answer at the next meeting of the District Committee.

The Chairman stated that financial budget issues must be taken into account, particularly during the present conditions of hardship within the City Council.

- ii) Councillor Brew made reference to paragraph E on page 275 of the Minutes and thanked officers for ensuring that Northfield Ward Members were sent a newsletter via email in relation to events happening at Northfield Leisure Centre. He thanked the City Council and building contractors for all their hard work.
- iii) Councillor Cruise made reference to the third paragraph on page 276 of the Minutes in relation to the Birmingham Cycle Revolution and stated that an update on whether the Traffic Regulation Order on the A38 Bristol Road South outside the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital had been served and also requested who was responsible for enforcing the traffic order as motorists were continuing to park on the cycle lane.

The Chairman clarified that he would make investigations and relay his findings to Committee Members at the next meeting.

- iv) The Chairman made reference to the preamble at the top of page 6 and stated that representatives from Willmott Dixon will be invited to attend the next meeting of this District Committee to give an update/progress report on their contractual service provision in relation to boiler installation spare parts.
- v) Councillor Clancy made reference to paragraph 14 on page 9 of the Minutes, third line, and stated that it should read **level** and not **letter**.

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**UPDATE ON NORTHFIELD LEISURE CENTRE**

Paul Wells, Leisure Projects and Client Manager, Jamie Bryant, Partnership Director for Birmingham Community Leisure Trust and Glenn Smith, Senior District Engineer gave a verbal report and made the following particular comments:

Update on developments regarding the new Northfield Leisure Centre:-

- the new Leisure Centre will be built on behalf of Birmingham City Council on the same site as the original pool. The new centre will consist of a six lane 25m swimming pool, 12 x 7m learner pool, family group village style changing rooms and facilities, 80 station fitness suite, a dance studio and a community room.
- ISG Construction Ltd is the appointed contractor and construction works undertaken to date from September 2016 include the demolition of old pool and pool foundations. Where possible all old materials will be recycled and reused to prevent as much waste material as possible going into landfill. Concrete parts of the building have now commenced, and the steel floor and roof will be erected in the coming months. Aim to build and deliver the new Leisure Centre as soon as possible. An opening day will take place.
- The legacy of the old Northfield Pool has been taken on board during the consultation process. During the demolition phase ISG were able to successfully remove the crest from the front of the building along with the 2 foundation stones and the weather vane which are all stored safely for potential reuse on the scheme. Details on the visual display depicting the old building and community use as a learning tool for future generations to enjoy will be discussed and finalised in the future.
- Traffic management for the scheme - aware that traffic can be very busy around this area of Northfield, particularly at rush hour. In order to prevent traffic congestion the site entrance will be manned at all times and delivery trucks will be assisted on and off the site. To minimise disruption to local residents ISG will not be working at weekends and Bank Holidays. All parking will be onsite and not around the existing highways. The number of car parking bays on site will remain the same as is the entrance location.

In response to questions from Members, Officers gave the following:

- As part of the contract arrangements and where the equipment cannot be used in the scheme it will go out to other Birmingham Council leisure centres to utilise. The sauna was removed and the control panel was taken and used for spare parts in both Handsworth and Tiverton pools as those locations had a sauna/steam room facility. In terms of the wood itself, the sauna unit was almost at the end of its operational life span. If the wood cannot be reused in the scheme it will be stored for possible use in the future.
- Working with a specialised consultant to ensure that the car parking facility on site will be used for solely for leisure centre patrons only and not shoppers. Exit from the car park and turning right will be addressed in the traffic plan. Timings for traffic lights in the surrounding area will be re-assessed. District Members will be informed of all changes to the traffic management plan.
- The coach car park entrance/drop off is large enough to manoeuvre a full sized coach into the coach car park. Child safety will be taken into account and addressed when the travel plan is confirmed.

Members requested that the newsletter be sent to all Members of the District Committee and not just Northfield Ward Members.

Members welcomed the positive moves taken to recycle all reusable material.

Members requested that a full traffic management survey be undertaken in the Northfield District by the City Council Highways Department.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed by all District Members -

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**RESOLVED:-**

That the Assistant Director for Highways be invited to attend the next meeting of the District Committee to answer all specific questions with regard to traffic management around the new Leisure Centre and listen to Members concerns.

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**LIBRARY SERVICE CONSULTATION AND THE PROPOSAL FOR NORTHFIELD DISTRICT**

The District Head introduced the item and stated –

- On the 18 October 2016, Cabinet Committee gave authority for the consultation to take place on the proposed new model for the community library service taking into account the savings total of £1.9m.
- The consultation period ends on the 22 January 2017. Lots of consultation sessions have taken place at local libraries and other public buildings.
- The proposals in the new model takes on a tiered approach to the library service which means that there will be different forms of provision in each individual community library across the City. He then went through each tier system specifying the differences between each. Explanation of the tiered system was specified in the consultation document that is available online on the Be Heard database for local residents and Members. A children's survey has also been developed.
- The consultation document attempts to modernise the library service with the option of a self-service and to work wherever possible with community groups to build a sustainable service in the future.
- The impact on the proposed library service changes in Northfield District –
  - Slight reduction in opening hours at Northfield Library from 39 to 35 hours per week.
  - Kings Norton Library hours increased from 33 to 35 hours per week.
  - Weoley Library, no change in the opening hours per week.
  - Frankley Library, no change in the opening hours per week.
  - The model also looks at West Heath Library and the proposal in the consultation is to offer Oddingley Hall as an alternative Library venue and develop as a community asset transfer and develop library provision as part of that.

A short discussion took place and Members expressed concern that a library service was a statutory provision and should be provided for all members of the community. However, it was expressed that the current proposals gave a positive impact in the Northfield District as no libraries had been threatened with closure.

It was mentioned that the Department for Works and Pensions utilised the photocopying services and the services of BCC staff in the local libraries and concern was expressed that a source of income should be sought from the DWP.

The District Head confirmed that officers will continue to seek funding to sustain library buildings.

It was -

402

**RESOLVED:-**

That the library service consultation and the proposals for the Northfield District be noted.

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**HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT  
QUARTER 2 2016/17 AND PERFORMANCE NARRATIVE**

The following performance report from the Service Director, Housing Transformation was submitted together with a performance narrative from Jonathan Antill, Acting Senior Services Manager:-

(See Document No's 1 and 2)

It was noted that the officer was not in attendance at the meeting.

The Chairman advised Members to email the Officer direct with any comments or concerns.

During the course of discussion the Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed that a discussion group for District Members be convened, outside the remit of the District Committee to discuss issues affecting Northfield District, for example the library service or housing services.

It was -

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**RESOLVED:-**

- i) That the Housing Transformation Board Performance report Quarter 2 2016/17 and the performance report be noted;
- ii) That the Chairman be given authority to call an all Members meeting as and when required discussing issues pertaining to the Northfield District.

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**NORTHFIELD DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE – NOT IN  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)**

Councillor Clancy gave a brief introduction of the work undertaken by various organisations to make improvements to the NEET challenge.

## **Northfield District Committee – 20 January 2017**

The Terms of Reference is specifically targeted towards young people within the 16 -19 year age range. Corporate social stability should be made available citywide.

The guest speakers present were: DWP, Roger Varley, Relationship Manager, Jan Collymore, Area Youth Officer, BCC Youth Service, Asma Ali, Youth & Employment Initiative (South Bham), Andrew Barnes, Employment & Skills Officer, BCC, Harri Ghalib, Manager, Prospects and Kam Hundal, Employment & Skills Manager

Each guest speaker gave a brief overview of their service provision and the impact that their service provision had on the youth in the local community – NEETs.

Members asked a number of questions and the following responses from the guest speakers were given:

- 85% of those in the Criminal Justice System are within the NEETs category. The Police and the Criminal Justice System welcomed support from BCC. It was suggested that the 2 parties work in conjunction with each other. There was a high illiteracy rate of youths within this group. It was important that all parties work together.

(Think Family Birmingham Youth Service had a good and reliable referral system. Partners offer support, advice and guidance to youths that have been through the Criminal Justice System).

- Lack of inspiration. There was a view amongst the youth of today that nothing was going to change. Were the youths in the Northfield District aware of the ongoing work and assistance that is available to them?
- Should be looking at where there are vulnerabilities, for instance in schools or children in care and work together with the youth before they leave school. Some youngsters will not get into the system.
- Members congratulated the work undertaken by the Youth Service. The Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills stated that he was available to attend meetings as and when required.
- Were Further Education Colleges doing enough to help young people in promoting the services available to them when leaving full time education.
- District Members agreed that they should become more involved and work with partners. Jobs and Skills Panels. 'How can we help you to help our residents'?

Councillor Clancy thanked guest speakers for their input and their verbal discussions to the District Committee. She stated a report will be submitted to a future meeting on the findings of today's discussions.

It was suggested by Councillor O'Reilly that Northfield District be the pilot area to host the reintroduction of the Local Employment and Skills Workshop. Members unanimously agreed with the proposal submitted.

404

**RESOLVED:-**

That the verbal presentation be noted.

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**DATE OF NEXT NORTHFIELD DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

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**RESOLVED:-**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Northfield District Committee be held on Friday 17 March 2017 at 1400 hours at a venue to be determined.

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**OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

**A. Local Initiative Fund**

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Austin Rodriguez requested to attend the next meeting of the Northfield District Committee to discuss.

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**B. School Funding Cuts**

During the course of discussion Councillor O'Reilly proposed that this District Committee reject the school funding formula.

The Chairman put the following motion to the Committee:

'That the Northfield District Committee resolves to write to government rejecting that the funding recalculations are actually fairer and Members demand that Northfield schools do not lose out as a result of their funding recalculations'

Councillor Griffiths seconded the motion.

The motion was put to the vote and upon a show of hands:

7 in favour of the motion

2 abstain

1 reject

It was –

407

**RESOLVED:-**

That the motion be carried.

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**AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

408

**RESOLVED:-**

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

The meeting ended at 1625 hours.

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CHAIRMAN