

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ERDINGTON DISTRICT COMMITTEE TUESDAY 31 JANUARY 2017

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ERDINGTON DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 31 JANUARY 2017 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

PRESENT : - Councillor Josh Jones in the Chair;
Councillors Robert Alden, Bob Beauchamp, Mick Brown, Des
Hughes, Mick Finnegan, Penny Holbrook, Gareth Moore and Gary
Sambrook.

ALSO PRESENT :-

Mike Davis – District Head (Erdington)
Peter Richmond – Chairman of the Housing Panel
Joanne Keatley – Birmingham Adult Education Service
Councillor Marje Bridle – Assistant Leader
Councillor Ansar Ali Khan - Assistant Leader
Nick Reid – Waste Management
Jason Bonser – West Midlands Police
Sarah Stride – Committee Manager.

NOTICE OF RECORDING

371 The Chairman advised that the meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent
broadcast via the Council's internet site (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.

APOLOGIES

372 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Lynda Clinton, Mike Sharpe,
Ron Storer and Paul Kitchen, West Midlands Fire Service for their inability to
attend the meeting.

MINUTES

373 **RESOLVED:-**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 29 November 2016, having been
previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman agreed to alter the order of the agenda as Councillors Marje Bridle
and Ansar Ali Khan had another meeting to attend at 1430 hours.

ASSISTANT LEADERS UPDATE

Councillor Marje Bridle and Councillor Ansar Ali Khan gave a verbal update and made the following particular points:

Councillor Marje Bridle -

- Work being undertaken and ongoing to localise what the City Council does – services provided.
- Assistant Leaders have liaised with many City Councillors to gather views, ideas and concerns. Everybody is stating the same thing – they want to be able to work more effectively at Ward and Neighbourhood level. Councillors feel that with the correct mechanisms in place decisions and actions can be achieved.
- The Assistant Leaders have identified 4 key measures of success:
 - If localisation is successful services would be different and better suited to the area and more efficient.
 - Officers would work for the locality first not their service or Directorate and would work together as a team in the locality.
 - Councillors will have more influence and exercise their community leadership roles more effectively on the services that are to be delivered.
 - Residents would believe that they are more in control of their service provision in their local area.
- At the Cabinet Committee Local Leadership meeting held this morning discussions took place on Members visits to other Council's. Assistant Leaders visited Oldham which is called a "Co-operative Council". They are committed and focussed on working effectively at the level of the local Ward.
- Assistant Leaders have put in place 'Local Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinators' to help make the vision happen. Their aim is to assist residents and Councillors in guiding them on where to go and what to do in order to get things done.
- 3 co-production sessions held – at the last meeting it was hoped that Kingstanding Regeneration Trust would attend as people were keen to hear about the successes that they had achieved. Have liaised with Frankley Parish Council and listened to they have achieved as a local community council and in Leeds, which has Parish Councils, there is a Charter and the Council arranges 'Devolution Deals' with local areas. Investigating on how Birmingham can use similar methods to flex the services and make them more suitable for the local area.
- Street cleaning – 'Cleaner Streets Plan' in place and Councillors to work with local residents to identify how street cleaning could be localised. 'Keep Britain Tidy' weekend on 3rd, 4th and 5th of March 2017. Further details and information will be advertised shortly.

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan –

- The main aim was to put 'basics' right in the City of Birmingham for local residents. Listened to views of many and the main point that was reiterated in all discussions was that 'we need to fix the neighbourhood'. If we want to improve our neighbourhood then we must work in a partnership. Looking at the City's financial situation, it is obvious that the City is not in a position to provide all services the way the people of Birmingham want. The only way improvements can be made to our services is if elected members, community leaders, voluntary organisations, community groups and the neighbourhood as a whole work together.
- Assistant Leaders looked at good practices in other areas - visited Bristol, Manchester, Plymouth and other Council's to gather ideas and schemes that they have in place to see if Birmingham can replicate and incorporate them into our future plans. Have met with opposition Leaders of the Council and discussions taking place on the way forward for our City. If we can improve the neighbourhood structure then we can achieve a better standard of living for all residents Citywide.
- During discussions Street cleaning was a major issue that was identified. On 9th November 2016 a 'Clean Up Day for the City' had been organised and the City was awarded ten awards for the initiative. On 3rd, 4th and 5th March 2017 holding a 'Keep Britain Tidy' weekend. Asking all Wards to present a cleaner streets plan so the Department can monitor the situation and deliver services in accordance with the local plans. Urge Ward Members to submit their cleaner streets plans as soon as possible.
- The important role sits with Elected Members. Elected Members need to take leadership in their neighbourhood. If local Members take leadership then they can encourage local groups to become involved. The 3 key issues are Education, Engagement and Enforcement. If the 3 key issues are practiced then neighbourhoods will be improved.

The Chairman thanked Councillors Bridle and Khan for their verbal report and asked the Assistant Leaders other than appointing Local Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinators what other proposed structures were in place to improve neighbourhoods?

Councillor Khan replied that the Local Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinator will work together and alongside 3 Elected Members and arrangements will be made to structure a local team to work in co-ordination with them to deliver services locally. All service providers will work together as a team to improve our neighbourhoods.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Gareth Moore concerning as to whether local funding will be made available Councillor Khan stated that £48,000 will be made available to each Ward Citywide for a 12 month period. He stated that at the present he was not in a position to confirm whether further funding will be made available but other options are being explored to see how funding can be continued for local investment. He was pleased to announce that the Erdington Town Centre Management Project had been approved this morning at the Cabinet Committee Local Leadership meeting. Councillor Bridle advised that discussions were taking place with Cabinet Members concerning localising services and the Local Innovation Fund of £48,000 per Ward was seen as a starting point and local teams could independently bid for other pots of Government funding, Lottery funding, Heritage funding etc. for their local neighbourhood areas. Officers with

experience in drawing up and presenting bid reports will be made available to offer advice and guidance to all neighbourhood local teams.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Gary Sambrook concerning the number of Elected Members assigned per one Local Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinator, Councillor Khan advised that in some circumstances it may be 4 Members but this has been identified and discussions were taking place with Social Landlords and Housing Associations with a view to utilising their staff to help and assist the neighbourhood team. Councillor Sambrook further requested that during discussions with Cabinet Members concerning the restructure of the City Council was the formation of Parish or Town Council's discussed whereby it was envisaged that the creation of local Committee's and a local neighbourhood Manager will be appointed and if so would the creation of either structure be determined on a 'where appropriate' basis or 'by demand?' Councillor Bridle replied that a meeting was recently held and all Councillors were invited to attend to discuss whether they would be interested in the possibility of setting up a Local Community Council in their Ward. The ability to set up a Local Community Council is available depending upon the wishes of local people. There was huge support from local residents in Sutton Coldfield to want to set up a Town Council. The proposal should come from the community. If there is a demand for the development of a Local Community Council and devolution then support and guidance will be provided. Cabinet Members were in support of the devolution process.

The Chairman thanked both Assistant Leaders for their informative and interesting verbal presentation and stated that he would invite them both to a future meeting to receive an update on progress made and future proposals.

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RESOLVED:-

That the verbal report from the Assistant Leaders be noted.

At 1422 hours Councillor Penny Holbrook left the meeting.

ERDINGTON HOUSING PANEL UPDATE

The following presentation from Peter Richmond, Chief Executive, The Pioneer Group and Chairman of the Housing Panel was circulated at the meeting:

(The presentation document is available for public inspection on the Council's internet site www.birminghamnewsroom.com)

(See Document No. 1)

Peter Richmond, Chief Executive, The Pioneer Group and Chairman of the Housing Panel introduced the power point presentation and responded appropriately to comments made by Members.

The Chairman thanked Peter Richmond for his comprehensive presentation and it was -

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RESOLVED:-

- i) That the verbal presentation on the progress of the Erdington Housing Panel be noted;
- ii) The Chairman requested that the District Head send written notification to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes requesting that all District Housing Panels Citywide be contacted with a view to providing comments and feedback on the City Wide Housing Strategy document.

NORTH ADULT EDUCATION SERVICE UPDATE

Joanne Keatley, Birmingham Adult Education Service gave a verbal presentation and made the following particular points:

- The Birmingham Adult Education Service is primarily a 19+ funded organisation. Funded by the Skills Funding Agency. Externally funded via a grant.
- Priorities are for adults who are unemployed and low skilled.
- Work alongside health and wellbeing, in particular people with mental health issues and adults with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- Family learning programme – to get adults engaged in their own learning and how those adults interact with their own children and encourage them to learn.
- Previously had a centre in Osborne Road, Erdington and another in Boldmere in Sutton Coldfield. Both buildings were in a poor state of repair. Amalgamated both centres and now have a newly refurbished building located at Sutton New Road in Erdington. The centre opened in September 2016. Successful official opening day held last week. The standard of the new centre is excellent.
- In the year 2015/16, combining the figures for both of the old centres there were 1,630 learners, 3,400 individual enrolments.
- In the new centre there are to date 1,120 learners and 2,200 enrolments. The new centre is already 2/3 of the way in meeting the targets from the 2 old centres combined. This is an indication that the new centre will be a success.
- Of the 1,120 learners at the new centre, 42% of them are Erdington District residents. 15% of those 472 learners are from Erdington Ward, 13% Stockland Green. 6% Kingstanding and 9% are Tyburn. The other Wards in the City that the centre is serving are the remaining 58% - 17% are from the Sutton Coldfield District, 8% Ladywood and 10% from Perry Barr.
- Top courses on offer are GCSE English and GCSE Maths and other English and Maths programmes that are not as high as the standard of GCSE.
- Have creative industries – upholstery and woodwork courses.
- Offer counselling, sign language and other courses for people with learning difficulties.
- Partnership working with the job centre, Erdington Skills Centre.
- In 2015/16 there were 1,000 Erdington residents who took up learning and there are 714 to date in the new centre in 2016/17. 40% are white/British, 12% Caribbean, 7% African, 7% Pakistani and 7% from other White

backgrounds. 40% of applications are on work related benefits. 24% have declared themselves to have a learning disability.

- We are a small provider for young people aged 16-18 years of age. Working with Premier Training College in Erdington to offer 20 NEETs a study programme.
- Working with Witton Lodge and they are working with long term unemployed people offering careers information and advice together with a mental health assessment.

In response to questions raised she advised that the only provision that the new centre were unable to offer that the old centre at Boldmere did was pottery classes. This was because provision could not be found to house the kiln. The new centre has however, been able to take forward and offer floristry, various art subjects, upholstery, woodwork, cookery with a hospitality suite and various other non-accredited programmes.

Members congratulated Joanne on her informative presentation and congratulated all staff involved at the new centre. Members hoped that the successes of the centre will grow and flourish for many years to come.

Councillor Alden stated that he was pleased that the picturesque Victorian building vacated by the centre in Osborne Road was to be transferred back into use by the Education Service to be used as a school premises site. He was pleased that the building had not been earmarked for demolition.

In response to questions raised by Councillor Mick Brown, Joanne Keatley advised that meetings with learners had taken place to discuss issues such as facilities available in the new building, travel arrangements to and from the new site, and the courses provided at the new centre and the general feedback received from service users was very positive and encouraging. Concerns were expressed in relation to the lack of parking at the new centre but service users have now accepted the situation and use other methods of transport such as public transport. All comments received were taken on board and fed into a cycle of future improvement works to be investigated and if necessary undertaken.

With regard to partnership working with the Workers Educational Association (WEA) she advised that there was a partnership group in Birmingham called the Birmingham Learning and Skills Partnership which includes the WEA and all colleges. The group is mainly concerned with entry levels, skills and entry level opportunities.

With regard to learners with disabilities, the service has always provided a significant amount of provision for users with both learning and physical disabilities and the centre has always had a good budget for learning support. The centre also has a very good volunteering programme where the service is complimented with the assistance of approximately 80-100 active volunteers who provided vital excellent support and guidance in classes. So in situations where sufficient funding has not been identified the volunteers can fill the gap by offering their services free of charge.

The Chairman thanked Joanne Keatley for her very informative and interesting presentation and it was -

RESOLVED:-

That the verbal presentation on the North Adult Education Service be noted.

CLEAN AND GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE 2015/16 UPDATE

The following report from Nick Reid, Waste Management was submitted:-

(See Document No. 2)

Nick Reid, Waste Management introduced the report and appendices and highlighted the salient points.

In relation to questions and comments raised by Members he gave the following responses:

- Twitter account – the news room stopped publishing bin missed collections on their Twitter page and officers were requested to stop sending information through to them. The number of miss collections had reduced significantly since wheelie bins were rolled out Citywide.

Members expressed concern that miss collection information should be emailed to all Members across the District as and when they occur so they can then notify residents of the problem and advise them when their bins will be collected and emptied.

Nick Reid stated that he would investigate re-establishing lines of communication in relation miss collection information to all Members of the District Committee.

- Residual waste had increased and a possible explanation for this is that wheelie bins have to some extent encouraged it. It is a known problem that many other Authorities have experienced. Overall the level of recycling has increased. The vast majority of Birmingham's residual waste does not go to landfill it goes for incineration with energy recovery at Tyseley Depot. Birmingham's landfill waste is less than 10% of the total waste collected per year. He confirmed that more work needed to be done around the 3 R's (reduce, reuse and recycle) and the waste prevention team will engage with residents, community groups and Charity Organisations in an effort to drive down waste and recycle goods as far as was reasonably possible. However, to achieve results in this field a lot of work, expenditure and education needed to be completed but he was in agreement that it was a move that Birmingham City Council needed to undertake.
- Food recycling scheme – the collection of food waste was not part of the future waste strategy. Nick Reid stated that he was unable to comment on this issue.

Members expressed concern that the issue was not part of the future waste strategy and stated that there were definite merits to the scheme and the idea should not be discounted in the future. It was suggested that

combining food waste with garden waste collections was a positive step forward in the right direction.

- Members welcomed the removal of the on-street recycling banks as often they resulted in problems with rubbish being dumped around them. The areas where they have been removed have experienced less rubbish being left on the street. The underground recycling banks did not encounter the same dumping problems and Members felt that it was unfortunate that they also had been removed.
- Members made reference to recommendation no. 5 in the report and stated that it was imperative that street cleansing rotas be shared and communicated with Ward Members and all other interested partners.

The Chairman thanked Nick Reid for his comprehensive report and reiterated the request from Members that they be notified of all miss collections across the District and also Ward street cleansing rotas.

It was -

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RESOLVED:-

That the report and verbal update on the Clean and Green Neighbourhood Challenge 2015/16 be noted.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE UPDATE

Jason Bonser, West Midlands Police gave a verbal report and made the following particular points:

- Over the last 2 months crime trends in the Erdington District have reduced significantly to 15.4%. Mainly due to the end of the Christmas period. Violent crime was relatively stable across the District.
- Erdington Ward – to date have experienced an increase in offences - 32 burglaries, 42 offences of theft from shops and stores, 18 offences of violent crime but less offences occurring on the streets. The Police team have concentrated on burglaries in the areas and have done a lot of work with residents advising on how to prevent house/car etc burglaries. A recent arrest of individuals has had a significant impact on the number of burglaries occurring in the area. Team operation Alliance – focussing on offender management. Concentrating on parking around local schools and anti-social behaviour. Further information available at local tasking teams.
- Kingstanding Ward – only a slight increase in offences to date. Reduction in burglaries and fewer offences in business crime. Reduction in violent crime. Team working with residents around Wryley Birch Estate to reduce burglary crime. Road safety awareness – dealing with youths gathering in groups on bicycles across the District.
- Stockland Green Ward – increase in offences at year to date. Significant increase in burglaries. Violent crime and street crime offences have increased. Community Action Plan and Neighbourhood Team working well to helping to reduce crime figures – night crime and residents walking from the train station feeling unsafe need to be addressed. It was also

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expressed that drugs in the Stockland Green Ward was an issue that needed to be addressed.

- Tyburn Ward – An increase in crime to date. Business crime had increased in theft from shops and stores. Violent offences have increased. Arrests mentioned earlier have had an impact on the number of robberies and burglaries. Numbers will reduce in the future. Parking issues around Fort Parkway have stabilised after a number of parking tickets were issued. Feel that people have now got the message and are parking more responsibly. Boy racers – vehicle registration numbers have been taken and will be dealt with under the Section 222 Injunction. Enforcement initiatives will be undertaken.

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RESOLVED:-

That the verbal update report from West Midlands Police be noted.

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE UPDATE

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RESOLVED:-

The District Committee was informed that the representative from West Midlands Fire was not in attendance at the meeting and had sent apologies.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

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No items of other urgent business were raised.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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That the next meeting of the Erdington District Committee be held on Tuesday 28 March 2017 at 1400 hours in Committee Rooms 3 & 4, The Council House, Birmingham.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

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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 1530 hours.

CHAIRMAN