

**Ladywood District Committee –**  
**24 January, 2017**  
**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

<b>LADYWOOD DISTRICT COMMITTEE – 24 JANUARY, 2017</b>
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**MINUTES OF THE LADYWOOD DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY,  
24 JANUARY, 2017 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 3 & 4, COUNCIL  
HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT:** - Councillor Ziaul Islam in the Chair;

Councillors Muhammed Afzal, Tahir Ali, Sir Albert Bore, Kath Hartley,  
Nagina Kauser, Chaman Lal, Yvonne Mosquito, Chaudhry Rashid,  
Sybil Spence and Sharon Thompson.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Colin Barnes – West Midlands Police  
Nicci Collins – Place Manager  
Kate Foley, Acting Senior Service Manager  
Louisa Nisbett, Area Democratic Services Officer  
Michael O'Connor, Senior Service Manager  
Lesley Poulton, Head of Ladywood District

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(There was one member of the public in attendance.)

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**NOTICE OF RECORDINGS**

- 329 The Chairman advised that the meeting would 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 were confidential or exempt items.

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**APOLOGIES**

- 330 An Apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Carl Rice for his inability to attend the meeting.

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**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING - LADYWOOD**

- 331 **RESOLVED:-**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September, 2016 having been previously circulated, be agreed and signed as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

332 The following matters were raised:-

West Side Partnership Ltd (BID) - Councillor Bore reported that despite being appointed to West Side Partnership Ltd (Business Improvement District) in September he had not received an invite to any meetings. He asked that the matter be followed up.

Min 324 Cabinet Committee Local Leadership - Councillor Lal noted that at the last meeting he had questioned why another layer of Councillors had been appointed to deal with the Local Innovation Fund and the Chairman had undertaken to follow the matter up on behalf of the Committee. The matter was noted and the Chairman undertook to report back at a later date.

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**WEST AND CENTRAL LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

333 The following update was received and noted:-

(See document no. 1)

Nicci Collins and Colin Barnes attended for this item. The Committee was informed that Superintendent Mat Shaer had been appointed as Chair of the partnership but was unable to attend the meeting. Colin Barnes had attended the meeting on his behalf. During the presentation and discussion the following points were made:-

- Nicci Collins reported that the Partnership covered Perry Barr and Ladywood District. The Partnership consisted of a number of Members including Councillors Hartley, Nagina Kauser and Sharon Thompson. Representatives included West Midlands Fire Service, Midland Health and South and City College.
- There was a reporting mechanism to the meeting but most of the activities took place outside the meeting. The purpose of the partnership was to make Ladywood a safe place to live and visit. There were 4 Partnerships across the City.
- Third Sector Community and Voluntary organisations had a large part to play. They had attended an Away Day. The Neighbourhood Tasking Group was led by Police Sergeant at Ward level. Members of the public could engage raising issues and assist in problem solving. A Supporting Adult's Panel had recently been set up to support vulnerable adults. The group looked at issues such as self-neglect, hoarding and people not looking after themselves. The group did not replace referrals.
- There were city-wide priorities set by BCSP also some local priorities set by the Local Partnership set out on page 2 of the report. Priorities for the current year included vulnerable adults, mental health, homelessness, domestic violence, vulnerable youth, prevent, gun and gangs, emerging communities and neighbourhood working.

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- In January the second Supporting Adults Panel had been held. There were 10 cases. Multi-agency work had been done on Soho Road. This had been attended by partners police etc.
- The Mobilising Communities Grant, Small Grant Pot had been allocated. The successful applicants were listed on page 8 of the report.
- A summary of activity that had taken place was set out on page 2 of the report.
- The hotspots for ASB had been mapped and some targetted funding had been made to the Youth Outreach Projects in that area.
- A piece of work had been undertaken on St Georges Estate involving BCC housing and the police on the Estate. Plans were in place to establish 2 public space protection orders.
- The Safer Communities Group had been re-launched. Data is shared between Ladywood and Perry Barr who work together.
- Councillor Hartley reported that she attended as many meetings as possible. She was pleased that the Away Day had been well received. She would be happy to discuss input and funding available with the partnership, also to bring local groups on board.
- Councillor Lal stated that it was a very comprehensive report. He stressed that the work carried out should be meaningful for the people it related to. He made reference to public space protection orders in Soho, Nineveh Road and the lack of support for officers there who needed back up for their work. He questioned the point of having the orders if it was not backed up with enforcement.
- Colin Barnes, WMP replied that the problem with the orders was that evidence was needed in order to enforce them. The order on Nineveh Road was being reviewed. There had been some internal issues with the printing and distribution of the enforcement tickets. They had now been received and enforcement action would be done. There were concerns that the problems would increase in the spring and summer when there were people outside drinking. The legislation was new and enforcement would be sorted out.
- In reply to Councillor Afzal the Public Space Protection Orders had been signed off by the Director Rob James. Signage was being looked at as they wanted to put the signs up before the order which would hopefully be by the end of the month. Once the signs were up the PSPO would be live. Lesley Poulton would liaise with Nicci Collins to send an email response.
- Councillor Sharon Thompson was on the group however had been unable to attend any meetings. She was pleased that she had been kept updated by correspondence from Nicci Collins as necessary. Sharon Thompson thanked those involved in the partnership for all their work.
- In reply to Councillor Islam, Nicci Collins clarified that the £48K for small grants had been fully allocated. During the meetings over the next few weeks they would discuss how to involve the third sector. Nicci Barnes said that the Away Day looked at work with the third sector.

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- Councillor Mosquito questioned how much work was done with organisations in terms of resources. She suggested that a mapping exercise by the partnership would be money well spent. Nicci Collins replied that they had not tried mapping all the organisations as it would be too big. People had been funded through the small funds pot. Colin Barnes agreed there was a pool of talent in Districts and the amount of work that was done by people wanting to assist was staggering.

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**HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 2**  
**2016-2017**

The following report was submitted:-

(See document no. 2)

The following narrative and High Rise Block Scores in Ladywood was submitted:-

(See document no. 3)

Kate Foley and Michael O'Connor attended the meeting and presented the report. During the discussion and in response to questions the following points were made:-

- Councillor Yvonne Mosquito was concerned about the welfare of staff within the Housing Service and requested a report on the effects of the transformation of the service on staff morale, the number of grievances and complaints etc and the impact on service delivery.
- Management of ASB – There had been 197 new cases received, 3 hate crimes. Both had been resolved. 99.5 % of cases had been responded to on time. There had been a technical error which accounted for the 0.5%. 149 cases had been closed successfully.
- High Rise Blocks – An incident had been raised via the website and referred to West Midlands Police. An incident had been discussed with the individual and WM Police. The case had been closed but was being monitored. An individual in a high rise block in Aston Ward had turned out to be the perpetrator themselves. The self-service case that had been raised could not be closed on time.

The lack of capital programmes for housing blocks had made an impact. There had been some challenging staff issues which had impacted on performance.

- 'Lodgers in Occupation' for more than 12 weeks – There were currently 11 cases that were being investigated. Sometimes legal action was necessary.
- Introductory tenancies over 12 months not made secure – The 2.9% related to tenants in rent arrears.
- Conditions of estates – 26.75. This was undertaken with partners and residents.
- VOIDS – Average days turnaround was 21.6 and not 23.2.

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- Councillor Sybil Spence said that it would be good if proximity of the voids were included in the information. Councillor Sybil Spence was a Member on the Homes and Neighbourhood Overview and Scrutiny Committee and questioned whether there was any way that the void properties could be brought back into use for rough sleepers.
- Kate Foley clarified that the ASB cases in the report were investigated by the Housing team and not the police. The allegations meant a tenant could be breaching their conditions of tenancy. With regard to void properties, there were a lot of people on the waiting list some of which were homeless. There was also a bidding system. Kate Foley felt that Members of the Homes and Neighbourhood Overview and Scrutiny Committee might want to look at the issue.
- Repairs – Michael O'Connor said that the issues were highlighted in the report. The District information was on pages 61-70. Performance figures were similar across the City.
- There had been some issues with the IT during the first 2 quarters leading to complaints and dissatisfaction. The communication process with contractors needed to improve. There had also been issues with appointments and contractors not keeping tenants up to date. This had been raised with WATES and they were working with them to improve and instill the 'treat our residents as you would our own home' policy. There had been some improvement.
- Councillor Afzal was disappointed there were 5 red KPI's for Ladywood and felt there was a level of incompetency. He added that a tenant in his Ward had waited without heating or hot water owing to contractors waiting for parts. He had raised the issue with Rob James. Ladywood had one of the largest numbers of high rise blocks in the City. He requested performance figures for his own Ward. Councillor Afzal continued that the Quarter 3 data should be circulated to Councillors as soon as it was available and not wait until the next meeting.
- Michael O'Connor said that there had been some issues with recording data. They were working with contractors on a weekly basis. The issue with parts should not happen and they were carrying out van stock checks to avoid this. A meeting to discuss parts was taking place the following day. The amount of complaints made to College Road had reduced. Councillor Afzal felt that the policy was a good idea.
- In reply to Councillor Islam's question about asset management and maintenance, this was work in progress. They were moving forward and improving.
- Councillor Spence concurred with Councillor Afzal's comments about waiting for parts to do repairs. There had been problems in the Soho Ward. She felt the repairs should be prioritised. Michael O'Connor said that communication was key to ensure that the parts needed for boilers in the area was being carried on the van and replaced when used. There will be a database with all parts available in an area.

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- Michael O'Connor undertook to circulate whatever information was available regarding the quarter 3 Housing Performance report prior to the next meeting.

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**RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

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**BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL HOUSING CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS BUDGET – 2016/17**

335

The following report of the Strategic Director, Place was received and noted:-

(See document no. 4)

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**CABINET COMMITTEE LOCAL LEADERSHIP**

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Councillor Islam updated the Committee as follows:-

- Councillor Islam had attended a meeting of the Cabinet Committee Local Leadership on 20 September. The criteria for the Local Innovation Fund (LIF) had been discussed and a final report to Cabinet Committee had been agreed. They had met on a number of occasions and Councillor Lal and himself had attended. They had looked at the new localised working arrangements and how this had been progressed in individual Wards.
  - Councillor Islam handed out a report on the action week that had taken place in Washwood Heath Ward on 7 – 13 November, 2017 for information and undertook to send it to Members.
  - At the next Cabinet Committee Local Leadership meeting on 31 January the Assistant Leaders' would be reporting back on their visit to other Local Authorities. They would also discuss the Clean-up. The next Clean-up was planned for March.
  - Councillor Tahir Ali felt that it would be appropriate for the Assistant Leaders to attend the meeting to respond to questions and concerns from the Committee. He noted that although the Cabinet Committee Local Leadership met regularly Members would not be aware of the issues unless they followed the meeting on CMIS. The Chairman agreed to the request that an Assistant Leader attend the next meeting with regard to their new role.
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**REGULATION 33 VISITS TO ADULT ESTABLISHMENTS**

337

The following list of Establishments in Ladywood District to receive Members Regulation 33 Visits was received and noted:-

(See document no. 5)

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Councillor Kauser and Islam had carried out a visit. It was pointed out that some of the establishments had been listed against the wrong Wards – Shakti Asian Elders was in Ladywood and not Nechells and Advance Enablement (Church Lane) was in Nechells and not Aston.

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### **WARD UPDATES**

338 The following updates were noted:-

- **Aston Ward** - A meeting had been held on 12 January, 2017 with the Community and the police had attended. They had been invited to suggest schemes for the Local Innovation Fund.
- **Ladywood** – The Ward had met on 24 October, 2016. Issues discussed were the Icknield Port Loop Development. 400 apartments were due to be developed. Other issues were the LIF, rough living, Ward Boundary changes. Another meeting was due to be held today and will include a police update from the new sergeant, LIF, 20mph zone and waste enforcement issues were some of the things they will be looking at.
- **Nechells** – The Ward had met twice, on 13 October and 1 December, 2016. They would be meeting again in a few weeks. The meeting in December had been about the closure of Nechells Green Community Centre and local matters.
- **Soho** - The Ward had met in January and the meeting had been well attended by a lot of organisations. They had taken part in workshops about what was wanted for the Ward. It had been encouraging and an eye-opener. A sub-group had been formed to take things forward. A meeting was taking place the following evening. There was zero tolerance to flytipping. Officers were doing their best but the onus was on the community to stop doing it.
- Councillor Bore informed that Ladywood Forum would be approving an initiative later that evening regarding rough living and litter issues. If successful he would like to see it rolled out in other parts of the City. The focus of the Ward was on rough living, they wanted to engage with Nechells Ward and any other areas where there were hotspots. Any unallocated LIF could be considered for other parts of the District.
- Councillor Afzal informed the Committee that he would be presenting a petition against the closure of Aston Library to the Deputy Leader.

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### **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

339 It was noted that the next meeting would take place as follows:-

Tuesday, 21 March, 2017, 1400 hours in Committee Rooms 3 & 4, Council House:

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**OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

340 There was no other urgent business.

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**AUTHORITY TO ACT BETWEEN MEETINGS**

341 **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 1535 hours.

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Chairman