

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**YARDLEY DISTRICT
COMMITTEE
28 JANUARY 2016**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE YARDLEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 28 JANUARY 2016 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
Andy Pepper	- Assistant Director Children in Care Provider Services
Adrian Phillips	- Director of Public Health
Chris Robinson	- Acting Senior Service Manager
Paul Walls	- Leisure Project & Client Manager
Jamie Bryant	- Birmingham Community Leisure Trust
Amelia Murray	- Community Safety Manager
Marie Reynolds	- Area Democratic Services Officer

NOTICE OF RECORDING

351 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

352 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mike Ward for lateness due to a prior commitment.

MINUTES

353 The Minutes of the meeting of the Yardley District Committee held on 19 November 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP)

- 354 The Chairman referred to the excellent report relating to the Birmingham Education Partnership and subsequently highlighted several issues pertaining to Yardley district whereby one school was in special measures and generally the poor exam results and low success rates.

She stated that she wished to speak to members after the meeting regarding their responsibilities with schools and making contact with them. She added that she would like to invite the Yardley representative from Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) to the next meeting, to report on school improvements and what was being done and where, and what the outcomes were and how they were playing their part in terms of increasing better outcomes in terms of sats and exam results.

Community Safety Update – Future of Policing

- 355 The Chairman referred to the above mentioned item and confirmed that not as many police community support officers would be lost as anticipated.

Landlord Services

- 356 It was noted that the Landlord Services annual visits would be finishing shortly and a report would be submitted to the next meeting.

Amey Contract - Compliance

- 357 The Chairman confirmed that Councillor Stacey was checking out the above-mentioned item.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 358 No declarations were submitted

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Education and Children's Services - Event

- 359 The Chairman reported that she had attended an event yesterday relating to Education and Children's Services and subsequently emphasised that education attainment in the city was not as good as the English average, and therefore there was a need to look at education attainment over most of the city. It was noted that there had been discussion also about Children's Services and the improvements that still needed to be made there.

District Responsibilities – Increased

- 360 She stated that whilst working away as Chair of Yardley District, highlighted the greater responsibility that had been given to districts which was a real issue and that all elected members had a part to play. She stated that it had been somewhat difficult with the additional responsibilities and there was concern that elected members were fulfilling these responsibilities, adding that more workshops and presentations would be taking place regarding these responsibilities and how all members would play a part in this work.

Corporate Parenting Role

- 361 She referred to the role of a Corporate Parent which she was continuing to undertake, however, highlighted that it was a shared responsibility, and that every single member of the City Council should be exercising their role as a Corporate Parent.

CORPORATE PARENTING

Andy Pepper, Assistant Director Children in Care Provider Services whilst highlighting his strategic responsibilities relating to Corporate Parenting and also Children in Care, subsequently provided a detailed presentation on the introduction to Corporate Parenting:-

(See Document No 1)

The Chairman referred to Warwick House as a respite facility which was located in the district whereupon visits were undertaken by her and Councillor O'Shea. She further referred to the five care homes in the private sector located in Yardley and although happy to undertake initial visits, would be circulating the contact details to members once they had completed their training. She encouraged members to carry out the visits within the year, which she stated would be helpful, and also discuss with the young people on how they were progressing at school and maybe whether the students were accessing the services they were entitled to, which she stressed, would be a really useful start in looking after our young people in care.

Following comments and questions from members the following points were made:

Andy Pepper stated that there was a statutory responsibility for the city council, as well as a number of other partners to feed information where there was a request for children's homes to be registered in an area, in order that this could be fed back to the regulator regarding that particular area. The police and the National Probation Service and also the provider make a decision based on that information. He added that children's homes have to be registered through Ofsted and it was usually down to their final decision if they were going to give registration to the home. He advised that each home undertakes a compatibility risk assessment, and have to look at particular issues around young people, taking into account their care plan and then try to match their plan with the home they would be moving into. He stated that they tried to ensure that they

were not put into a riskier situation than the one they had left. He referred to the expectations from the homes that looked after the young people and worked with them around anti-social behaviour and keeping them safe.

Andy Pepper referred to the regulation 44 training and the assistance in providing pointers for members to look towards when undertaking visits.

The Chairman referred to the excellent guidance notes in highlighting what to look for and also suggested to look at the day to day book, where incidents were recorded and if regularly re-occurred, to question this.

Andy Pepper detailed the membership of the board and highlighted that they had got a cross section of the people working with children and young people that were looked after in the city. He added that there was a representative from the young people in care on the board and also that there was a separate young people's board. He added that the young person that sat on the corporate parents' board was in care themselves up until six months ago and was now a care leaver. He stated that twenty two young people that were on the young people's board which fed into the corporate parenting board, and that was where issues were picked up adding that they were now developing a strong working relationship with the young people and that there was more face to face communication than there had been in the past.

Andy Pepper referred to the scrutiny part of the involvement which at present, was not yet finalised. He stated that there were a number of ideas and what they were clear on was that the information that came out of the children in care council was fed into the corporate parenting board first in order for it to be debated, and then forwarded to the working group that puts together a task and finish group in order to get to grips with the issues. Once the issues had been dealt with, it would be fed back to the children in care council who then in turn fed back to the board.

The Chairman thanked Andy Pepper for attending and presenting at the meeting. She stated that she would look forward at the next district committee meeting of being able to report on the actions the members had taken in this area of work.

Councillor Tilsley agreed to circulate training dates.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

362

RESOLVED:-

That the presentation and comments be noted.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Adrian Phillips, Director of Public Health provided an update. He highlighted that as yet he was unable to provide details of the budget as it was not yet available.

He referred to the mandatory functions and highlighted that by law they had to provide a child weight and measuring programme, ensure provision of health checks for everybody between the ages of 40 to 75 and ensure appropriate sexual health services and ensure plans were in place to protect the health of the population.

From 1 October 2015 new mandatory functions relating to health visiting including checks for babies before birth after birth and certain ages would be mandatory functions. The department was monitored on set of outcomes called public health outcome framework and the indicators were showing that the city illustrated more red than green and therefore were looking to make improvements. It was noted that although the government had promised that there would be fewer outcomes the numbers had increased from 56 to 93 currently.

Adrian Phillips stated that the department were expecting £103m in April 2016 in the comprehensive spending review with at least a 7% reduction next year with incremental reductions continuing for the following 3 years. He referred to the changes to the funding formula and stated that until the figures were available could not report on exactly how much the budget would be.

He highlighted that most of the budget was spent on mandatory services which included; sexual health, health checks and also supporting the early years. He stated that there was a great deal of funding being provided to support the redesigning of the process so that in future, there would be a different offer for parents in Birmingham linked to health. He referred to the reductions in the future and the stark choices that would have to be made around lifestyle; smoking services, weight management services and activity services.

He referred to the overall picture of the city and stated that undoubtedly there would be a cut in the budget and that there was a year on year saving of £2m due to the way contracts had been signed for the next 2 years which would be less difficult. He added that after that due to the how the budget would be allocated it was uncertain as to whether mandatory functions would stay or go and finally in 4 to 5 years' time it could move to business rates.

He referred to the sexual health services provision that was being provided in the basement at Boots that would be opening on 11 February 2016, which was what young people requested when consulted.

He referred to the substance misuse contract which was different than before where they had tried to commission a system rather than a service. In the substance misuse, sexual health service and nursing area a provider in those areas had not been commissioned and that all contracts had a number of lead providers who had a supply chain. Further reference was made to another element of the service which was safeguarding children and how it was managed by the department with a system leader who in turn managed the rest of the supply team in terms of commissioning. He stated that it was important in that it was up to all to make it work and help them to make it work with providing practical support.

The Chairman concluded by thanking for attending the meeting and presenting.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

363

RESOLVED:-

That the update be noted.

**STECHFORD CASCADES AND FOX HOLLIES LEISURE CENTRE -
UPDATE**

Mr Paul Walls, Leisure Project & Client Manager, and Mr Jamie Bryant, Birmingham Community Leisure Trust provided an update.

A brief background was reported on the award by Cabinet in June 2015 of the 15 year contract awarded to Circo Leisure Operator Limited together with the delivery vehicle of Birmingham Community Leisure trust in operating 8 facilities across the city. Within the 8 facilities 3 of those would be replaced which included Stechford Cascades.

Mr Jamie Bryant referred to Birmingham Community Leisure Trust stating that it was a non-profit organisation set up as a vehicle to manage efficiently the leisure services in Birmingham. He detailed how the trust was made up and that it was currently chaired by an interim chairman and that in time, the trust would look within the city to manage the trust and that it would provide strategic direction and leadership to the management team led by him and colleagues.

Reference was made to Fox Hollies Leisure Centre the weather pitch and the large fitness facility that generated commercial revenue, and the drive for more community engagement. It was noted the further enhancement of the Be Active Programme with other key stakeholders which included teaching more ladies and parents to swim and through working hard with BCC to drive some initiatives, one identified earlier was to improve the fun factor in Fox Hollies by encouraging more children to swim. It was noted that more jobs had been created at the centre and there had been a pro-active marketing approach with the assistance of the big screen in Grand Central station as well as radio coverage in driving more people to get active. Reference was made to the good work that was taking place with Nine Stiles Academy and that the students were receiving enhanced facilities.

It was reported that Stechford Cascades would be replaced with a brand new facility as the current facility was tired. At present work was at the design stage with architects and colleagues from the Planning Department. Reference was made to the consultation and that the same facilities would be provided and that that they were working with current users to ensure that more fun activities and holiday programmes were introduced. It was noted that the building would be more efficient and economical and was due to open next summer. Whilst the new facilities were being built, the existing building would remain operating although services would have to be reviewed in certain areas when this work

was taking place. Reference was made to the commitment of driving as many people through existing Cascades and the refreshment of some of the gym equipment whereupon it had been recorded that there had been 1000 new customers that had just wanted to use the gym facilities.

It was noted that the driver for the city was to try and put forward a solution to provide the space for activities and the various ways to create fun with the water leisure activities. This could include the obstacle course on water which was a far better experience than a blow up ball in the swimming pool and it was highlighted that they were working with the different stakeholders to ensure that they were listened to.

At this juncture, the Chairman emphasised the fact that there had not been discussions with local councillors and that local councillors had been involved with these particular leisure centres for many years.

Following comments and questions from members the following points were made:-

Jamie Bryant reiterated that the intention was to operate the existing site whilst the replacement was being constructed. He referred to the facilities that would be provided which included 2 pools, a sports hall with a large fitness suite and large community room/exercise space. He referred to the leisure facilities and the need to look at the economical way to provide the leisure services which included the swimming provision and the ways to create fun with the water leisure activities.

He confirmed that the design of the pool sizes had been taken on the guidance from Sport England and the recommendation was a 13m teaching pool and a 25m main pool. He confirmed that galas at the pool would continue and any existing bookings for existing clubs and groups would be honoured and protected. Reference was made to the consultation that would be taking place with them and subject to consultation with members and residents it was anticipated that they would be on site in June 2016 ready for opening by the end of July 2017.

With regard to the provision in the pool to provide a curtained area for ladies it was noted that they were looking at the design detail stage and that it was an interesting challenge for designers to overcome with the different elements and would confirm back the outcome as part of the brief to architects across all of the sites. Reference was made to the surveys and non-user surveys in ensuring that they fully understood what people would prefer. Reference was made to the existing Passport to Leisure scheme and the commitment in the contract to set a number of hours offering PTL rates which offered certain discounts to certain groups within the city. It was noted that they were working on a number of initiatives through different stakeholders to deliver various schemes and would be working with people to ensure that there was a large cross section of the community using the facilities.

The Chairman suggested that a simple way would be to ensure that the pool was not overlooked when there were 'women only' sessions taking place.

Councillor Dad stated that other organisations had these ‘women only’ facilities and stressed that there was a need for this facility and it was important that members advocate on behalf of residents.

Jamie Bryant confirmed that at Fox Hollies the new gym and group exercise studio would open at Easter and that they were engaging with the local population and community regarding the opening and subsequently detailed the various means of publication and media they were using.

Following issues relating to the deterioration in the badminton offer, Jamie Bryant confirmed that there were 4 badminton courts at Cock Moors Woods Leisure Centre and agreed to look into the computer malfunction that had been raised, adding that it was a very busy site. He highlighted the reason for the 8 courts reducing to 4 was due to the conversion of a fitness suite and making better use of the space for as many people as possible. Reference was made to the development of Billesley Tennis Centre as a racket facility rather than just a tennis facility and that Fox Hollies Leisure Centre would remain committed to racket sports as a whole. It was noted that at the new Stechford Cascades there would be a 4 court purpose built badminton facility.

The Chairman reiterated the importance of members being involved with the developments and suggested that regular meetings should take place in order to keep all updated.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Mr Paul Walls and Mr Jamie Bryant for presenting.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

364 **RESOLVED:-**

That the update and comments be noted.

HOUSING TRANSFORMATION REPORT

365 The above item was deferred until the next meeting.

ACOCKS GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM GRANT

The following report of the Yardley District Lead was submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

Upon further consideration, it was:-

366 **RESOLVED:-**

That the District Committee:-

Yardley District Committee – 28 January 2016

Recognised Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum and notes their annual report and accounts and request the Neighbourhood Forum to continue to provide representation to Acocks Green Committee and partnerships as appropriate.

Authorised the award of a grant of £800 to be paid from the 2015/16 Neighbourhood Forum Grant budget to Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum to help with the running costs for the forthcoming Neighbourhood Forum financial year. The award of a grant was subject to Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum meeting the Council's Condition of Grant Aid terms and conditions. This grant comes from the Neighbourhood Forum Mainstream Grants allocation and not Ward Committee allocations.

Requests that the Neighbourhood Forum provides advance notification of its next Annual General Meeting to the Neighbourhood Forums' Link Officer so that assistance can be given in advertising the meeting to all residents.

Authorised the Neighbourhood Forum Link Officer to process the grant in accordance with Conditions of Grant Aid procedures and the City Council's Financial Regulations, as appropriate.

COMMUNITY PLAN AND UPDATE OF THE DISTRICT CONVENTION

367 The Chairman reported that most members attended the Convention and took part in all of the discussions.

She stated that they had been fortunate in the fact that they had received external assistance in preparing the community plan which was owned and delivered by both members and joint stakeholders. She stated that the plan would be presented in the summer illustrating the roles and responsibilities for officers and members.

URGENT BUSINESS –

FOX HOLLIES NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM GRANT

The following report of the Yardley District Lead was submitted:-

(See document No. 3)

Upon further consideration, it was:-

368 **RESOLVED:-**

That the District Committee:-

Recognised Fox Hollies Neighbourhood Forum and notes their annual report and accounts and request the Neighbourhood Forum to continue to provide representation to Acocks Green Ward Committee and partnerships as appropriate.

Yardley District Committee – 28 January 2016

Authorised the award of a grant of £1200 to be paid from the 2015/16 Neighbourhood Forum Grant budget to Fox Hollies Neighbourhood Forum to help with the running costs for the forthcoming Neighbourhood Forum financial year. The award of a grant was subject to Fox Hollies Neighbourhood Forum meeting the Council's Condition of Grant Aid terms and conditions. This grant comes from the Neighbourhood Forum Mainstream Grants allocation and not Ward Committee allocations.

Requests that the Neighbourhood Forum provides advance notification of its next Annual General Meeting to the Neighbourhood Forums' Link Officer so that assistance can be given in advertising the meeting to all residents.

Authorised the Neighbourhood Forum Link Officer to process the grant in accordance with Conditions of Grant Aid procedures and the City Council's Financial Regulations, as appropriate.

CHAIRMAN

369 The Chairman stated that if members would like to suggest any items for the next district committee meeting to advise her accordingly.

The Chairman encouraged members to visit local schools and suggested the ways in making links with schools, adding that it was not necessary to be a school governor in order to undertake visits. She highlighted that it would be useful if all could make those informal links in order to show that councillors in Yardley District were interested in the schools.

PETITIONS

370 There were no petitions submitted to the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

371 The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 24 March 2016 at 13:30 hours in Committee Room 2, Council House.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

372 **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 15:30 hours.

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CHAIRMAN