

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

LADYWOOD DISTRICT COMMITTEE – 10 MARCH 2015
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MINUTES OF THE LADYWOOD DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 MARCH 2015 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3&4, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

PRESENT: - Councillors Tahir Ali, Kath Hartley, Ziaul Islam,
Chaman Lal, Nagina Kauser, Yvonne Mosquito,
Carl Rice, Sybil Spence, Sharon Thompson.

ALSO PRESENT: Lesley Poulton, Head of Ladywood District
Sukvinder Kalsi, Assistant Director Finance
Brenda Gallagher, Senior Service Manager, Area Housing
Karen Creavin, Head of Birmingham Wellbeing Services
Jag Gill, Active Parks & Parklives Sponsorship Manager
Phil Lydon, Nighat Hussain, Dr Sirjit Bath, Stephanie Coates, Jill
Gadd – NHS Sandwell & West Birmingham
Kay Thomas, Area Democratic Services Officer

ELECTION OF A CHAIR

RESOLVED:-

- 212 That in the absence of Councillor Islam, Councillor Mosquito take the Chair for this meeting.
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APOLOGIES

- 213 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Afzal, Sir Albert Bore and Rashid. Also apologies submitted from Superintendent Beard, Station Commander Newman and from Councillor Islam for lateness.
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NOTICE OF RECORDINGS

- 214 The Chair advised the meeting to note that;
- This meeting would 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 were confidential or exempt items.
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MINUTES

- 215 The minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2015 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

PROVISIONAL LADYWOOD REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING – 2014/2015
MONTH 10 (APRIL – JANUARY 2015)

The following report was submitted;

(See Document No 1)

Sukvinder Kalsi outlined the details of the report.

Councillor Rice noted that the District deficit was to be written off however he advised that Ladywood District had saved money and earmarked it for particular initiatives via a Ladywood Initiatives Fund that was to be established principally from allocations previously made by Ladywood to fund the NIA Community Hall. Ladywood District had been funding the Hall but from research had found it was not used by Ladywood residents and it should not therefore be subsidised by the District. It had been planned to use the money previously allocated to the NIA to lever in additional funding for use in the District and therefore it was hoped that particular pot of money would not be written off so that it could be committed, as planned, for spend in future years. Councillor Rice sought an assurance that the principal would be honoured and given the planning that had already taken place the aforementioned money would not be clawed back.

Sukvinder Kalsi commented on the Community Initiatives Fund that had been approved and £2m set aside from 2016/17 subject to governance arrangements. With regard to the NIA resource he assured the Committee that the money would not be clawed back.

Councillor Lal referred to appendix 2 and whilst acknowledging the excellent work undertaken by the environmental warden queried the cost for one day per week work in Soho Ward which might look excessive to anyone reading the report. Lesley Poulton advised that the environmental warden was employed via an agency as the post was funded through Community Chest contributions.

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RESOLVED:-

- a) That the latest provisional revenue budget position at the end of January (month 10) and year end projected balanced budget as detailed in appendix 1 be noted.
- b) That the latest provisional Community Chest allocations and the current financial position as detailed in appendix 2 be noted.
- c) That the provisional position with regard to the Savings Programme for 2014/15 as detailed in appendix 3 be noted
- d) That the position with regard to the capital projects for 2014/15 as detailed in appendix 4 be noted.

URGENT CARE AND CARDIOLOGY SERVICES

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Representatives from Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG attended the meeting and advised the Committee of the listening exercise being currently undertaken in respect of changes in the delivery of urgent cardiology and emergency surgery and trauma assessment services. The differences between urgent care and emergency care were highlighted along with the reasons for the review of the services. The increasing demand for emergency care via A&E departments was a challenge and the service needed to be made fit for the future.

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Councillor Rice said that in view of changes taking place it was important to have a regular dialogue with Health Service colleagues and a forum to drive through those changes. Those involved in the running the service understood the changes but patients often did not. While the changes were not necessarily negative, given the current system where assessment took place in one hospital and patient treatment in an alternative hospital, Councillor Rice queried how that system had ever been put in place and why it had taken so long to put a more practical system to be proposed. Given that despite publicity about when to go to A&E departments, they were still over whelmed by people who need not be there, Councillor Rice queried how the NHS would get the message across to patients and staff alike.

Comments were also made regarding GP services and that they appeared to act more like businesses than public services and there were comments made regarding difficulties obtaining a GP appointment, that practices needed to be smaller in size and doctors more accessible to patients and the appointment system brought up to date so that appointments could be booked in advance or at a future date.

Dr Bath stated that GP practices were small businesses and GP's were self-employed. Doctors had to ensure their practice was cost effective or it would not survive. GP's however did provide a public service and were good value for money as indicated in customer satisfaction poles. Through the listening exercise it was hoped to develop a strategy to find a solution to the issues raised. There was a national shortage of qualified GP's and younger doctors did not want to work in inner city areas, therefore more was being done to attract doctors into the service.

The current operating system was historically based on the fact that there had been 2 A&E Departments in the area at both City and Sandwell Hospitals and the beds had been configured around this. This would have to be re-configured when the new hospital opened in 2018. National practice showed that specialist emergency and hospital services were best provided in fewer but larger centres to deliver best patient care, providing quicker access to treatment, skilled care from specialist teams and a consultant led team 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Staff groups were also involved in the listening exercise and were involved in planning the changes.

Councillor Ali while welcoming the changes to the services and the building of the new hospital as a centre of excellence was concerned that there had to be a wait of 3 years. He added that to properly scrutinise the services the Committee needed to be made aware of the figures and targets that had *not* been achieved.

The Committee was advised that the re-configuration was to create centres of excellence. The stroke unit had been moved to Sandwell Hospital after consultation but there was limited space to locate the cardiology unit and this was one of the reasons a new hospital was needed.

In response to questions the Committee was advised that after 2018 out-patient and day cases would be dealt with at City and Sandwell hospitals.

Councillor Rice said that all partners needed to engage with the people they served and therefore to have proper and meaningful engagement they needed to work collaboratively. He therefore suggested that the Health Service and the City Council share the responsibility of engagement thus creating a better relationship with the NHS and saving money in times of scarce resources. Councillor Rice said he would like to discuss ways of putting this in practice. Phil Lydon agreed with the comments made

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regarding collaboration and agreed that a mechanism for joint meetings should be arranged.

The Chair asked that when the listening exercise had been completed it could be evidenced to show that views had been captured and the outcomes detailed on the website and designed into the service. Residents did not want more consultation but wanted to see action.

ACTIVE PARKS RE-LAUNCH

- 218 Karen Creavin circulated a briefing note detailing the re-launch of Active Parks. She added that activities had continued over the winter and there would be more information available later in the year following the launch in March to highlight activities over Easter. Mapping information was being made available for GP's and this could be made available to the Committee.

In response to a question from Councillor Lal the Committee was advised that the information collected regarding participants enabled sociable activities to be also organised. These were aimed at those living alone as mental health and physical health were dependant and the information collected also assisted in putting on activities to reflect the community.

Karen Creavin undertook to circulate maps locating the parks in the Ladywood District and also in response to a query from Councillor Hartley regarding information relating to use of the activities undertook to provide post codes of people taking part in activities.

QUARTER 2 LADYWOOD DISTRICT PERFORMANCE REPORT

The following report was submitted:-

(See Document No 2)

Lesley Poulton outlined the report and made specific reference to those indicators that appeared in red and the reasons provided at the last meeting. With reference to the residents tracker this was part of the wider consultation on governance.

RESOLVED:-

- 219 That the report be noted.
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HOUSING PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 2

The following report was submitted;

(See Document No 3)

Brenda Gallagher referred to the trackers within the report and highlighted that the only red indicator related to the management of empty homes. There had not been a sustained improvement so further scrutiny of the management of void properties was continuing and an improvement plan put in place.

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Councillor Rice made reference to the contribution of the Housing Liaison Boards in the process of producing the report and queried progress. Brenda Gallagher confirmed that customer experience was important and that the HLB did have a part to play and their views would be incorporated in the next report due in June. At present members of the HLB's were attending training to enable them to undertake a scrutiny role and following completion of that training a meeting would be arranged with the HLB Chairs and their views taken on board.

RESOLVED:-

- 220 That the report be noted.
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EMERGING PROPOSALS IMPACTING ON DISTRICTS

- 221 The following briefing note was submitted and noted.

(See Document No 4)

Lesley Poulton referred to current consultation on the Big 3 services – NAIS, Youth Services and Libraries – and that the District involvement on the local offer for the Youth Service would be part of further consultation.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

- 222 Lesley Poulton advised on the current public consultation on the review of the arrangements for local democracy in the City and advised that a public briefing was being held at Newtown Community Centre on 18 March at 6pm.
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OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Southside Business Improvement District

- 223 The Committee was advised that following Councillor Mosquito's resignation from the Southside BID a new nominee was required from the District Committee. Members wishing to serve on the BID were requested to advise Lesley Poulton.

Ladywood District Convention

- 224 The Chair thanked Lesley Poulton and her staff for organising the successful Ladywood Convention in March. Members commented on the positive feedback they had received from residents and partners about the Convention who felt they had benefited from their attendance and it had encouraged them to become more involved in local governance.

Soho Ward

- 225 Councillor Spence asked that her thanks to the Fleet and Waste Management team be placed on record for their work in improving the cleanliness of the Soho Ward.

AUTHORITY TO ACT BETWEEN MEETINGS

RESOLVED:-

- 226 That the Chairman is hereby authorised to act until the next meeting of the Committee except that, in respect of the exercise of the Council's non-executive functions, the appropriate Chief Officers are hereby authorised to act in consultation with the Chairman and that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services is authorised to affix the Corporate Seal to any document necessary to give effect to a decision of the said officers acting in pursuance of the power hereby delegated to them; further that a report of all action taken under this authority be submitted to the next meeting and that such report shall explain why this authority was used.

The meeting ended at 1540 hours.

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Chairman