

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ERDINGTON DISTRICT COMMITTEE TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2016
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ERDINGTON
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 29
NOVEMBER 2016 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE
ROOM 2, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT : - Councillor Josh Jones in the Chair;

Councillors Robert Alden, Lynda Clinton, Des Hughes, Penny Holbrook, Gareth Moore and Gary Sambrook.

ALSO PRESENT :-

Mike Davis – District Head (Erdington)
Patrick Canavan – Housing Manager
Mark Rodgers – Housing Manager
Afzal Hussain – Erdington District Employment Group
Jason Bonser – West Midlands Police
Sarah Stride – Committee Manager.

NOTICE OF RECORDING

358 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

359 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mick Brown, Mick Finnegan, Mike Sharpe, Ron Storer and Richard Stanton, West Midlands Fire Service for their inability to attend the meeting.

MINUTES

360 **RESOLVED:-**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 27 September 2016, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

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

The following report of the Strategic Director, Place was submitted:-

(See Document No. 1)

Patrick Canavan and Mark Rodgers highlighted the salient points of the report and circulated at the meeting revised appendices 2 and 3 (available for public inspection via the Council's internet website):-

(See Document No's 2 and 3)

Members welcomed the report and requested further information in the form of a briefing note listing all previous year's projects and costings that were not successful in their bid.

The Chairman suggested that with regards to next year's budget allocation and projects put forward by Members and residents, it would be advantageous to receive a briefing note one clear month in advance of the District meeting so Members can scrutinize each project and costing prior to the decision making process.

Upon a show of hands it was unanimously -

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RESOLVED:-

- i) The progress in connection with the projects initiated in Appendix 1 be noted;
- ii) That approval be given to the projects as outlined in Appendix 2 attached to the report;
- iii) That the budget position statement provided at Appendix 3 attached to the report be noted.

**UPDATE ON ERDINGTON DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE
(MENTAL HEALTH) 2016/2017**

Mike Davis, District Head gave a verbal report and made the following particular points:

- The Erdington District Committee had decided that this year's Neighbourhood Challenge will be Mental Health.
- A meeting was held after the last District Committee to determine the nature of the review and what was needed to be discussed. The topic required careful and meticulous understanding – links with employment, housing issues, adult and social behaviour, what treatment or rehabilitation was required or could be supported or assisted.
- During the course of discussion it was agreed that the District would not limit itself to one particular area of concern. A list of supporting organisations was drawn up and the aim is to meet with each group to

ascertain what services they provided. Work will commence from January 2017.

- He had attended a mental health open day conference at a centre in Reservoir Road. A lot of service providers were in attendance and the discussion that took place was very informative. A lot of contacts were gathered. Any Members willing to accompany me at meetings with these groups is welcome.
- It was hoped that a draft report will be available for submission to the March District meeting.
- A date for a work shop conference will be arranged, possibly mid-March 2017.

Members welcomed the verbal presentation and it was suggested that West Midlands Fire Service and West Midlands Police also be included on the list of organisations to contact and hold discussions.

The Chairman stated that it was important that communication takes place in order to guide people and help them access the services they required.

It was –

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RESOLVED:-

That the verbal presentation be noted.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE UPDATE

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

Crime Trends/Headlines –

- YTD increase of 828 offences TRC – 17.4% increase on last year – 5603 offences recorded in total.
- This is above the West Mids force average, (almost 11% increase).
- The crime increase is largely due to an increase in acquisitive crime – especially Theft Shops & Stalls, (significant increase on Tyburn (retail parks)), Vehicle Crime, (an issue across all wards) & House Burglary, a particularly vile and upsetting crime, which has seen a significant increase, but not across all the wards.
- Tyburn has experienced a slight reduction in burglary, a slight rise in Kingstanding, an increasing number in Erdington (11 more offences, 14% increase), but the most significant increase has been in Stockland Green where 69 more offences have been reported, 61% increase on last year.
- In relation to violence offending – experienced recently two particularly significant and serious incidents within the Stockland Green Ward, however, the picture around reported violence offences is better than the acquisitive crime picture. This year have experienced an increase of 36 violent crime offences across the constituency, a 5.1% increase. Kingstanding has actually experienced a 7% reduction in violence, Stockland Green, 5 more offences than last year, Erdington and Tyburn 22 & 23 offence increase respectively.

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- Concerned about an increase in robbery offending, (especially involving young), in Tyburn, experienced 19 more offences and in Stockland Green 17 more offences, this follows years of low robbery offending.
- So what are we doing – I say ‘we’ because I need your help on this –
- First of all – we need to get the message out to everyone that crime is increasing in Erdington, not to shock or cause an increased fear – but to make people aware, increase vigilance and encourage the reporting of any suspicious behaviour – Encourage reporting through 101 or crimestoppers.
- We also need to encourage our communities to where they can, take precautions to make their property as unappealing as possible to potential offenders – better locks, bolts, lights and alarms – don’t leave property on display and lock doors and windows.
- Clearly there are many social factors at play across the constituency, and we also need to work together on the partnership and community initiatives that can make a real difference in improving social capital and resilience. There are excellent examples of where this is paying dividends across the four wards and as we move forward we are directing our PCSO’s to work in a ‘connect and build’ role, making them more available to work with community groups and support new groups such as watch schemes and Active Citizens.
- One of the tools we will be using is a new web based application called WM Now – Over the next few months this app will become a key tool in providing a two way messaging system to groups, locations, (such as addresses in a street), or individuals. We will be encouraging as many people as possible to sign up to this system, the more people using it, the more effective it will be.
- And in the background there is always significant police activity ongoing to manage known offenders, support and divert from offending where possible and catch and convict where necessary.
- We are also geared to respond at pace to reported incidents, (and we have made significant arrests recently following burglaries, robberies and violence offences being reported because our patrol plans have put us in the right place at the right time), and we are structured to conduct effective investigations into reported offences, gathering evidence to secure convictions.
- We also look at working upstream, working with our local community safety and early help partners to reduce the effects on individuals and families of impact factors such as drug and alcohol abuse, to reduce vulnerability and susceptibility to becoming both victim and offender.

In other areas of business – You may be aware that last week we contributed to –

- Road Safety Week –
 - Experienced a number of recent tragic road deaths – all very different in terms of circumstances and one where speed was a significant factor for which the offender was sentenced to six years in prison last week.
 - Road Safety week was about raising awareness of the dangers of speeding, using mobile phones and appropriate restraints for children travelling in cars.
 - Over 45 roads were targeted with Pro-laser operations across both Erdington & Sutton constituencies.
 - A number of local schools were targeted for enforcement around parking issues.

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- And we ran an enforcement operation on Tyburn Rd that saw vehicles being seized for no insurance and other offences.
- Through comments on social media, the operation seems to have been well received and we look at repeating on a quarterly basis.
- Op Hercules –
- Boy Racers – Tyburn/New Hall, (but problem experienced across the city)
- S.222 Injunction now in force –
 - Bans street cruising in Birmingham – Can be arrested
 - 2 or more vehicles – excessive noise, danger to other road users, litter, damage or risk of damage to property & nuisance to any other person not participating in street cruising.
 - Already experiencing a reduction in calls around street cruising.
 - Force operation on 20/11 – no issues experienced in Erdington or Sutton.
- Finally...
- Christmas plans for DTE & NTE –
- Plans in place for extra visibility over the festive period – on 7 key dates additional staff patrolling Erdington High St, Slade Rd and Tyburn Retail Parks.

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RESOLVED:-

Members welcomed and noted the verbal report from West Midlands Police.

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.

HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT- QUARTER 2 2016/17

The following report of the Place Directorate Performance and Support Services was submitted:-

(See Document No. 4)

Patrick Canavan, Housing Manager introduced the report and responded appropriately to comments made by Members.

He gave a verbal report on the following issues:

- ASB and anti-social behaviour. In terms of cases current Erdington District was ranked 7th Citywide.
- Estate Management – high rise and low rise blocks. Achieved 86% in excellence in high rise and 100% for low rise. Cleanliness of blocks etc.

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- Unlawful occupiers – complex cases. Current cases are approximately taking up to 12 weeks to solve. The main problem is engagement with occupants due to the fact that they are being asked to evict the property that they are unlawfully occupying, often rent free.
- Introductory tenants – within target.
- Estate assessments – completed every 6 months. Ask tenants to complete a questionnaire to gain their views. Statistics have shown that the majority of Erdington residents are proud to live in the District.
- Rent Service – Collected 97.22%. Statistics gathered on a monthly basis. Overall arrears in the District are currently over 1m.
- Narratives and commentary is available in the report next to each service provision.

He requested that Members email him directly if further information is required in relation to the statistics shown in the report and that he would respond directly.

The Chairman requested that an officer be invited from the Repairs Service to attend the next meeting to give an overview of the service provided.

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RESOLVED:-

That the Housing Transformation Board Performance report be noted.

ERDINGTON DISTRICT EMPLOYMENT GROUP UPDATE

Afzal Hussain gave a verbal report and made the following particular points:

- Have leading and international employers in the District. A lot of regeneration in the area. Good partnerships with employers and employees.
- High levels of youth unemployed – NEETS and low qualification achievements.
- Good involvement with Schools. Employment team, Adult Education Service and Colleges to assist youth unemployment.
- Initiatives ongoing with employers and engaging in opportunities that they can provide for NEETS. Ongoing.
- Breakfast Event and Jobs Fair was a success and employers are positive in employing a youth workforce.
- Working with worklessness individuals to support them in gaining employment.
- Erdington is the second highest District Citywide in supporting NEETS and achieving success in gaining employment.
- Tough times – partnership is delivering success. A commitment to work towards the future.

Members welcomed the verbal report and congratulated the group and the working partnership model on the successes that they have made in the District.

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RESOLVED:-

That the verbal report on the Erdington District Employment Group be noted.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

A. Youth Champion Update

367 The Chairman stated that he had had the role of Youth Champion for over 3 years. He had worked with the YMCA to set up and organise the Youth Centre in Slade Road. The Centre has been a huge success. Detached youth work ongoing to support and advise young people.

Indoor and outdoor cricket games organised – working with and supporting young people.

Street Wise activity and YMCA drop in sessions to offer advice to young people.

Engaged and assisted in a host of activities organised across the District involving young people. More than happy to become involved and support activities organised for and by young people.

B. Update/ Briefing note on Regulatory and Enforcement

368 The Chairman introduced the briefing note submitted by Regulatory and Enforcement on a number of issues that were raised at the last District meeting:

(See Document No. 5)

Members requested that the annual service plan report sent to Licensing and Public Protection Committee should be forwarded to all Members of the Erdington District Committee. The information should relate to the Erdington District only and not a Citywide report.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

369 **RESOLVED:-**

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

SEASONAL GREETINGS

370 The Chairman wished Members and officers compliments of the season.

The meeting ended at 1545 hours.

CHAIRMAN