

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**NORTHFIELD DISTRICT
COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2016**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHFIELD DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2016 AT 1400 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

PRESENT: - Councillors Steve Booton, Randal Brew, Andy Cartwright, Debbie Clancy, Ian Cruise, Peter Douglas Osborn, Carole Griffiths, Peter Griffiths, Simon Jevon, Julie Johnson, Brett O'Reilly and Valerie Seabright.

ALSO PRESENT: -

Andrew Chidgey, Principal Studies Officer, Economy Directorate
Georgina Foxwell, Head of Business Change and Service Improvement
Richard Davies, Northfield District Lead
Councillor Bruce Pitt, Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council
Errol Wilson, Committee Manager

NOTICE OF RECORDING

288 The District Committee were 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 except where there were confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES

289 An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Richard Burden, Member of Parliament for Northfield Constituency.

Councillor Brew stated that he was genuinely sorry to learn that Richard Burden MP was poorly and extended his best wishes to him.

MINUTES

In relation to matters arising from the Minutes, the following were amongst the matters raised: -

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- a. Members requested that they be issued with a copy of the draft minutes well in advance of the next meeting to enable them to act on any issues/information - Minute No. 279, paragraph 2 refers.
- b. Councillor Brew enquired whether the meetings would be held in the Northfield District and whether any progress had been made concerning the issue - Minute No. 279, paragraph 3 refers.
- c. The Chairman advised that there had been some progress and requested that Richard Davies, Northfield District Lead update the Committee concerning the issue. Mr Davies stated that they would speak with Member Services to ascertain whether it was possible for the meetings to be web-streamed at a local level. At the moment there was an option on portable web streaming, but there was a cost and there was no budget available to pay for that. Work was on-going but not yet concluded.
- d. Councillor Seabright stated that the work had started on the swimming pool, but that she was interested to know where they were with the discussions/plans concerning the junction in relation to the traffic management plans - Minute No. 279, bullet point 2 refers. Councillor O'Reilly suggested that Paul Walls, Leisure Project and Client Manager, Place and a highways officer be invited to the next District Committee meeting concerning the issue.
- e. Councillor Brew enquired whether planning permission had been granted and stated that he would like to see a regular report as the project goes through until April 2018 coming to the District Committee so that Members were up to speed as to what was happening in the future.
- f. Councillor Cruise made reference to nuisance vehicles and off Road Motorbikes. Following the last District Committee a meeting was convened which was useful and that he would share the information with the Committee given his new role on the Community Safety Partnership - Minute No. 281 refers.
- g. Councillor Brew referred to the Housing Transformation Board Performance report and stated that he was a little confused when he read the first substantive paragraph and enquired whether this was happening and whether it would be a cross party group— Minute No. 283 refers. Councillor Cruise advised that there was a meeting on Middlemore Road to discuss the environmental improvement budget and there were representatives from the different Housing Liaison Boards within the area with some Elected Members.
- h. Councillor Clancy stated that there were a few Members there and they were given the presentation/PowerPoint and that she was happy to forward this to the Chairman for those who did not get the information. She added that it was worth looking at as there were charts that gave a breakdown of what was available and what it was for.
- i. Councillor O'Reilly stated that it was a productive meeting as it was interesting to see the scope of what the environmental budget could be spent on and what that resulted in a number of site walks and neighbourhood walkabouts

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where Councillors and officers could feedback in terms of what they would like to see done. He suggested that could be a standing item on the agenda.

- j. Councillor Douglas Osborn and Cartwright expressed their thanks to the Committee for giving them the time to raise the issue of heritage.

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RESOLVED: -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2016, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The business of the meeting and all discussions in relation to individual reports was available for public inspection via the web-stream.

BIRMINGHAM CYCLE REVOLUTION

Andrew Chidgey, Principal Transportation Studies Officer, Economy Directorate introduced the item. He apologised for his colleague Andy Middleton who was unable to attend the meeting. He drew the attention of the Committee to the information briefing that was circulated on where they currently were with the Birmingham Cycle Revolution (BCR) works in the District and responded to Members comments.

At this juncture the Chairman invited a resident who was involved in a road traffic accident on Bristol Road South whilst cycling, to address the meeting. Following the resident's address, an extensive discussion concerning the BCR took place.

In response to a comment by Councillor Douglas Osborn, the Chairman enquired whether Councillor Douglas Osborn was asking for a resolution from the Committee. Following a vote by a show of hands, the Committee agreed that the Traffic Regulation Orders on the A38 Bristol Road South outside the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital be made enforceable.

Mr Chidgey stated that this was something that they would look at with the funding they now had with the future programme of BCR, both in terms of the lay out and determining what the parking restrictions were. A brief discussion then ensued. The Chairman thanked Andrew Chidgey for attending the meeting and presenting the information. The Chairman also thanked the resident for attending and addressing the meeting. It was

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RESOLVED

That the Traffic Regulation Orders on the A38 Bristol Road South outside the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital be made enforceable.

CONTACT CENTRE

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Georgina Foxwell, Head of Business Change and Service Improvement attended and gave a verbal presentation concerning the Housing repairs process and responded to Members questions and comments.

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The Chairman commented that at an HLB meeting on Wednesday evening, there was a discussion concerning spare parts for central heating boilers. One of the problems as per Willmott Dixon, there appeared to be so many different types of boilers in Birmingham, that the City Council could not carry enough spares. He added that the engineers ought to be able to get information concerning which types of boilers were in what properties to Housing and they should be able to make decisions as to a replacement hit list. A suggestion was that Mr James and Willmott Dixon attend a future Northfield District Committee meeting.

The Chairman thanked Georgina Foxwell for attending the meeting and presenting the information.

NORTHFIELD DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE FOR 2016 – NOT IN EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)

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The Chairman introduced the item and advised that Councillor Clancy would give an update on where they were concerning this Neighbourhood Challenge. He added that they were going to have some people attending as witnesses, but that he had suggested that they put this forward to January's District Committee where they could put more time and effort in to it in terms of the questions that they as a Committee needed to be thinking about. He added that in the intervening period, it would be good if Members could think of questions to ask witnesses. They could do some work and try to get as many witnesses along to the Committee on the 20 January 2017.

Councillor Clancy then gave the following verbal update: -

- ✚ Three people who were due to attend the Committee today would attend in January were a representative from the Department for Work and Pension (DWP) and two members from The Factory in Longbridge. The reason for choosing The Factory was because of the research that had been done to date. It appeared that all Wards seemed to have filtering through to The Factory, NEETs, particularly those who appeared to have quite low self-esteem.
- ✚ A meeting was held with two of the stakeholders in September/October 2016 from the DWP and The Factory. They were due to present today, but this was now rescheduled for January's Committee meeting. She would like to see some form of case study happening – meet a NEET – it was uncertain that this would happen in front of the camera. This needed to be looked at, but certainly something they should do at some point and this could be during the workshop next year. She had spoken with the Prince's Trust and they were running a programme. Their NEETs were mainly from Weoley and they stated that they literally had to drive around Weoley and pick up youths that they thought were hanging about and it turns out that a few of them were NEETs.
- ✚ There were some issues going on as to what was happening with NEETs; why there were NEETs and the discussions that took place at Mr Davies' office with the stakeholders indicated that education played an important part. It seemed that this was something that they needed to look at as a District for the schools.

- ✚ In Year 11, the GCSE year, it was vital as to what was happening in terms of the pathways, choices etc., that the youngsters make. It was unsure whether anyone in the schools was capturing data or compiling lists of those youngsters who they think would fall in the NEET net. This was what the DWP thought might be happening. It may be that the schools could state that this view was not correct or that they might state that they had focused on this issue a number of times. It was uncertain that all of the schools were doing it. Capturing the data early on provides a chance for them not to become a NEET. This was some preventative work that could be done.
- ✚ Timeline - They needed to ask the questions as to what they wanted to see from the DWP and The Factory, but it needed to be borne in mind that the Committee was basing this on aged 16 – 19 years old. The DWP may have them around the 18 year old mark.
- ✚ Looking at the key questions they had in the Terms of Reference (TOR), what could schools do to improve the work experience with young people in achieving more tailor made workmanship to encourage maximum experience for that young person; what could be learned from the views of young people who were NEET; what were the barriers from discouraging young people from achieving i.e. is more mentoring required, for common sense reasons for earning a living to support self and/or future family. What else could be achieved with the Neighbourhood Challenge. It was hoped that a report would be submitted on the 17 March 2017 to the District Committee.

Members then commented as follows: -

1. The Chairman enquired whether what they were looking at doing in the January 2017 Committee meeting was to get the witnesses along, asking the members to draw up some questions to put to the witnesses which would then inform the later workshop between January 2017 – March 2017.
2. Councillor Cruise stated that in terms of intervention and things that were happening around those who leave schools at Year 11, and NEET, the schools in Frankley tracked all Year 11s on leaving school. All Year 11 students that leave Balaam Wood School were either in education, work or training which was a small cohort, but was a measure of success.
3. A better mechanism in schools for measuring the levels of progress of students were needed, but was also something that could identify at an early stage those whose levels of progress were not accelerating as they should be and then the interventions were put in place to accelerate those levels of progress so that when they leave school, they were leaving with the best attainment levels possible from whatever entry level they came in at.
4. Councillor Seabright stated that she welcomed what Councillor Clancy was doing and that her experience in education over the last 40 years meant that the Government was insisting on data, but data should be produced by the schools in any case. She questioned whether they were being realistic with the challenge. The problems they had was that there was not sufficient funding from the government in education, particularly for the post 16.

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5. Speaking of Year 11 and not Year 9 when those choices were made, they were being pushed down certain routes. Schools were being measured as they had to get to these end results irrespective of whether the individual was capable or not. There was too much pressure on the schools to be able to do what they needed to do to get the potential of every child.
6. Councillor Seabright gave a brief insight of her experience and stated that what was not given was the vocational route, they did not give sufficient funding, training etc., to the colleges to provide for those young people and this was where they should be looking. The question was where the gaps were in their own area that they should be pushing for as this was the challenge. Councillor Seabright further questioned who it was that they would challenge and whether they would challenge the government, the council or the children because they had been failed by the system .
7. Councillor O'Reilly noted Councillor Seabright's comments and stated that it was necessary to acknowledge where the gap was. He stated that they had to be fair to the schools as the schools did their best with predicted destinations data. The problems arose when the children leave school and goes off into the world of work or training.
8. Often, what they intended to do in terms of their destination was that they did not stick with that destination. It was known that some young people may go off to college, but after a few weeks they decided that his was not for them and then they move on. This was where the problem appeared to be in tracking once they had left the education system.
9. Birmingham City Council had introduced an online system called COG which was free to use by all schools and young people in Birmingham. The colleges were also exposed to this and there was an indication of interest in getting young people registered on COG. This was a one-stop shop for registration in terms of getting them in touch with the jobs market . The last time he had checked on COG, there were over 200 opportunities of apprenticeship, traineeships and work placements.
10. Companies were engaging with this and if they were looking at what they could do practically and locally, then this was something that they could be pushing and speaking with the schools and colleges as to what the business was about.
11. In terms of other work that was going on at present, he was pleased to report that in the south of the City the wider contract for NEET was being awarded and it would be timely to invite the provider of that to the District Committee meeting in January 2017. It would be amiss of the Committee not to involve that provider in the discussions in tackling NEETs and what their approach was.
12. Given the constraints around funding, the level of information and the scientific approach, it should be far more and if this was not the case, pulling up to groups of people on the street and asking them if they were NEETs or not he would be disappointed in asking them how they won the contract. It was hoped that they would be able to share some experience and learning on the issue.

13. In the figures that were published by the Education Department recently, there was a worrying sign that they started to see a *creep up* of youth unemployment locally. They were keeping an eye on this and it was hoped that this was a seasonal blip. The starkest indications were those with apprenticeship starts. In Northfield District alone they had 190 less apprenticeships starts than last year if they took that Birmingham wide looking at over 1000 apprenticeship starts down on last year.

14. The West Midlands region they were again just under a 1000 down, which showed that Birmingham in particular, was being hit by something and they needed to look into this at a local level to see what the barriers were to young people gaining an apprenticeship as the numbers were going in the wrong direction. They needed to ensure that this was a blip and not a trend going forward.

Councillor O'Reilly commended the work done by Councillor Clancy concerning NEET as it was one that had taken a long time. He expressed disappointment that he had offered to give some support at the previous District Committees concerning NEET, but this offer had not been taken up. A brief discussion concerning the issue then ensued.

DATE OF NEXT NORTHFIELD DISTRICT COMMITTEE

294 It was noted that the next Northfield District Committee meeting will be held on Friday 20 January 2017, at 1400 hours, in Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

295 None submitted

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

296 **RESOLVED: -**

Chairman to move:-

"That 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 1610 hours.

CHAIRMAN

